SLAVE TRADE. No. 2 (1878).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

DISCONTINUANCE

OF

COOLIE IMPORTATION

FROM

INDIA

TO

FRENCH GUIANA.

Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty, in pursuance of their Address dated 25th February, 1878.

20

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated February 25, 1878;

for—

"Copy of Correspondence between the Government of India and the Foreign Office relative to the Discontinuance of Coolie Importation from India to French Guiana."

No. 1.

The Marquis d'Harcourt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 26.)

M. le Comte, *Londres, le 23 Octobre,* 1876.

M. LE MINISTRE des Affaires Etrangères croit savoir que le Gouvernement Anglais, se fondant sur l'excessive mortalité des coolies dans la Guyane Française, vient de prendre des mesures à l'effet d'interdire l'expédition des nouveaux convois à destination de notre colonie. Rien dans la correspondance de Lord Lyons n'ayant préparé le Gouvernement Français à cette détermination, il était loin de s'y attendre, et les nouvelles les plus récemment parvenues de la Guyane ne signalent ni épidémie ni augmentation de mortalité parmi les coolies. Il y a donc lieu de présumer que la mesure en question est le résultat d'un malentendu. Je prie votre Excellence en conséquence de vouloir bien la faire retirer, si cela est possible, ou tout au moins d'obtenir pour les convois en formation et attendus à la Guyane l'autorisation de se mettre en route.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) D'HARCOURT.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *London, October* 23, 1876.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs understands that the English Government, in consequence of the extreme mortality among the coolies in French Guiana, have just taken measures to prohibit the despatch of fresh drafts of coolies destined for our colony. As nothing in the correspondence with Lord Lyons had prepared the French Government for this determination, they were far from expecting such a measure, and the latest accounts received from Guiana do not announce either epidemic or any increase in the death-rate amongst the coolies.

There is ground, therefore, for supposing that the measure in question is the result of a misunderstanding. I beg your Excellency, therefore, to be so good as to have it withdrawn, if that be possible, or at least to obtain for the shipments in process of formation and now expected in Guiana, the necessary authorization to start.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) D'HARCOURT.

No. 2.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, October* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 23rd instant, requesting that the prohibition which has been placed upon the importation of coolies into French Guiana may be withdrawn, and I have to acquaint your Excellency that I am in communication with the India Office upon the subject, and

shall have the honour of again addressing your Excellency upon receiving his Lordship's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 3.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the French Ambassador at this Court,* requesting that the prohibition which has been placed upon the importation of coolies into French Guiana may be withdrawn; and I am to request that you will move Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India to inform his Lordship what answer should be addressed to the Marquis d'Harcourt's application.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 4.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 16.)

My Lord, *India Office, November* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 30th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copy of a despatch which has been received from the Govern- of India stating the reasons which have induced them to suspend the emigration of coolies from that country to French Guiana, and the conditions under which its resumption will be permitted.

In communicating the contents of this despatch to the Marquis d'Harcourt, the Marquis of Salisbury trusts that Lord Derby will remind his Excellency of the correspondence which passed between Lord Lyons and the French Government in October and December last. On referring to that correspondence, Lord Derby will perceive that in its review of the Report of Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne for 1874, the Government of India pointed out certain deficiencies, and required that, before the resumption of emigration operations could be permitted, remedial measures should be carried into effect.

The reply of the French Government was duly transmitted to the Government of India on the 27th January last, and the later despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne have since been forwarded. But a consideration of these documents, and of the Report for 1875, has led his Excellency in Council to exercise the power vested in him by the legislature, and to suspend the emigration.

Lord Salisbury regrets that he feels himself unable to interfere with the discretion of the Governor-General of India in Council regarding this matter; and I am desired to request that Lord Derby will be good enough to communicate a copy of the accompanying despatch to Mr. Consul Wooldridge, instructing him to report fully, year by year, on the condition of the Indian immigrants in French Guiana, and to continue his watchful supervision over their interests and well-being.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

Inclosure in No. 4.

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Marquis of Salisbury.

My Lord Marquis, *Simla, September* 28, 1876.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatches dated respectively the 4th May and 8th June last, on the subject of the condition

* No 1.

of Indian immigrants in Cayenne. In the first of these your Lordship transmitted copies of letters received from Mr. Wooldridge, the Consul in Cayenne, reporting the measures taken by the administration of that Colony for the improvement of the medical attendance and the system of inspection, and the failure of his attempts to bring to justice certain persons who, by their neglect, had caused the death of several coolies, on a remote gold-washing establishment. In the second it was intimated to us that Lord Derby thought it desirable to defer any expression of satisfaction at the measures taken by the Colonial authorities in the interest of the coolies, until we had had an opportunity of considering the latest condition of affairs in Cayenne, and deciding whether the emigration thither from India should be continued.

2. We have now received, direct from the Consul, his report for the year 1875, and inclose a copy of it. From this report your Lordship will perceive that the death rate during 1875 was 12·15 per cent., being only 35 per cent. less than in the previous year. In 1874 1,808 new immigrants were introduced, among whom the mortality, during the process of acclimatization, might have been expected to be heavy, while in 1875 the new arrivals were only 351. The diminution in the rate would therefore appear not to be of any real importance, but rather in its smallness to show that our immigrants do not adapt themselves to the climate of the Colony without severe suffering.

3. On the other hand, while of the coolies introduced in 1874 18·7 per cent. died during that year, we observe that of the 351 persons introduced in 1875, no less than 73, or 20·8 per cent., died before the end of the year. The introductions of 1874 were chiefly from Calcutta, and the emigrants from Upper India despatched by that route, are generally found to be less robust than those from the Southern Provinces. But although the importations of 1875 were all from Madras, and were apparently so healthy during the long voyage, that only one infant died out of 352 souls, we find that their death-rate exceeded that of the presumably weaker Calcutta emigrants of the previous year.

4. We do not see any reason for believing that there has been a real improvement in the sanitary condition of the Colony, such as would make it better fitted for the residence of our Indian subjects; and we have therefore reluctantly been compelled to decide that emigration thither from India cannot continue. We have come to this conclusion with regret; the efforts that have been made by the Colonial Administration to improve the condition of our people, and the cordial way in which the suggestions of Mr. Wooldridge on their behalf appear to have been received, would have disposed us to permit the flow of labour thither from India to proceed, in the confidence that all possible measures for securing just treatment and proper medical aid to our subjects would be taken by the authorities. But it appears to us that it has now been clearly shown that the unhealthiness of the Colony, under its present conditions, is such as to make it unsuitable as a residence for natives of India, and that the work on the gold-washings, on which they are mainly employed, is so obnoxious to their health, and the situation of these washings so remote from the influence of the Administration, that we cannot properly continue to allow our Indian subjects to be imported for labour of this description.

5. Under these circumstances we shall deem it our duty to withhold our assent to the resumption of emigration from India to Cayenne, until it is shown by further experience, in the case of the coolies now settled there, that the arrangements have been so improved as materially to reduce the sickness and mortality. We trust that Mr. Wooldridge will continue to report fully, year by year, on the condition of the coolies now in the Settlement, and to exert himself on their behalf with the zeal and ability which have already been so conspicuous.

6. A copy of this despatch, and of Mr. Wooldridge's report, has been furnished to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
W. MUIR.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.

No. 5.

*Consul Wooldridge to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 27.)

My Lord, *Cayenne, October* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my half-yearly report on the mortality of Indian immigrants in French Guiana for the six months ended June 30, 1876, a copy of which I have forwarded to the Indian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Half-yearly Mortality Report (Coolie) French Guiana, June 30, 1876.

THE Mortality Returns for the first half of the present year, furnished me by the Department, show a slight improvement in the sanitary and social position of the Indian population in French Guiana, and the mortality among the coolies has been as follows:—

Population on January 1, 1876	3,309
Introduction of coolies during first half-year of 1876	423
Births during same period	26
Total	3,758
Deaths during first half-year	141
Death-rate per cent.	3·75

The total, therefore, of coolies of both sexes and of all ages existing in the colony on the 30th June, 1876, was 3,617.

The above table shows that there has been a diminution in the percentage of deaths among the coolies since my last Report, thus:—

Death-rate per cent. during second half of 1875	5·66
Death-rate per cent. during first half of 1876	3·75
Less death-rate per cent. in favour of the latter period	1·91

This may or may not prove to be favourable, because the last introduction of coolies took place at nearly the end of the half-year (January—June, 1876), and the mortality, consequent on acclimatization, had not yet set in; still, considering that a favourable difference again is shown in comparing the same periods of 1875 and 1876, as seen below,

Death-rate per cent. during first half of 1875	7·68
Death-rate per cent. during first half of 1876	3·75
Difference in favour of 1876	3·93

and that the introduction of the immigrants in 1875 occurred exactly at the same time as in 1876, viz., in the month of May, the difference in the mortality is strikingly in favour of 1876; and I can but trust that this happy result may be owing to the greater watchfulness on the part of the Administration, through the increase of the immigration service, over the conduct of employers towards their coolies working in the interior, and by the prompt attention paid to the smallest complaint of injustice by a coolie against his employer, brought by me to the notice of the Administration.

Complaints at the Consulate have been above the average during the past half-year (January—June, 1876), some of them having been on account of neglect, during illness, by employers, and for refusing to have them treated at the hospitals, which, although more expensive, is a surer and speedier manner of bringing them round than by treating them, as many attempt to do, at their own houses, which generally ends in a visit from the sick coolie requesting me to have him admitted at the hospital.

Other complaints were for non-payment of wages and for slight assaults. But I do not hesitate to say that the position of the coolie has gradually improved, though it is still far from what it should be.

* Communicated to India Office, November 28.

In a pecuniary point of view, the position of the coolie labourer at the placers has also been bettered, as I had recommended in former Reports. It has been decided in the Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, and Industry, that, taking into consideration the request of the British Government that the salaries of coolies employed in gold washing be raised, the salaries, after the first year of acclimatization be passed, shall be increased by 5 francs more per month, making their pay 17½ francs per month.

The mortality at the different quarters is shown in the following table:—

	Deaths.
At the Appronague quarter	29
Mana	19
Roura	17
Sinnamary	17
Cayenne (town)	45
Cayenne (island)	13
Kaw	1
Total	141

Again the Cayenne item shows a majority of deaths, which is due to the arrival of invalids at Cayenne from the other quarters, some of them in the last stage of illness, who have died in the hospitals.

During the first half-year of 1876, sixty-three transfers took place among the coolies, both to the Government service and to that of private parties, and fifty-seven re-engagements were made at the Immigration Office for the following periods:—

For one year	18
Two years	14
Three years	3
Five years	22
Total	57

Those who re-engaged for one year, received as bounty 25 francs each, those for two years 50, for three 100, and for five 200 francs.

(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE,
Her Majesty's Consul.

Cayenne, October 9, 1876.

No. 6.

The Duc Decazes to the Marquis d'Harcourt.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, December 7.)

Versailles, le 2 Décembre, 1876.

M. le Marquis,

PAR une dépêche télégraphique en date du 18 Octobre dernier je vous ai signalé les graves inconvénients qu'entraînerait pour notre Colonie de la Guyane l'application d'une décision nouvelle et pleinement inattendue pour nous, en vertu de laquelle le service de l'émigration Indienne à destination de la Guyane serait momentanément suspendu. Rien dans les informations qui nous parviennent de Cayenne ne donne lieu de penser que l'état sanitaire de cette contrée soit, à l'heure actuelle, particulièrement inquiétant, et, en ce qui touche les mesures d'hygiène prises par notre administration pour prémunir les coolies contre les fâcheuses influences du climat, la correspondance échangée entre mon Département et l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Paris suffirait pour mettre en lumière la prévoyante sollicitude de nos autorités. M. le Consul d'Angleterre à Cayenne a lui-même rendu hommage à la vigilance dont M. le Commandant Loubère se montre animé, et dans une circonstance encore récente un temoignage officiel de satisfaction nous en a été adressé par le Gouvernement de la Reine. Je veux donc croire, je vous le répète, à quelque malentendu qu'il est urgent de dissiper, et je desire que vous en entreteniez, sans retard, le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat, en appelant son attention sur les très-serieux préjudices auxquels notre Colonie serait exposée si elle se voyait aussi inopinément privée du concours des travailleurs sur lesquels elle compte et dont elle n'a rien négligé pour rendre la condition aussi satisfaisante que possible.

Dans le cas où des objections, dont je ne prévois pas la nature, viendraient à être opposées à la demande que je vous ai chargé d'adresser à Lord Derby, nous attacherions

beaucoup de prix à ce que, sans qu'il dût en résulter un précédent pouvant engager ses résolutions à venir, le Gouvernement Anglais consentît, du moins, à lever les obstacles opposés au départ des convois actuellement prêts à quitter Pondichéry et dont l'embarquement a été retardé, tandis que l'arrivée en est impatiemment attendue à la Guyane.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DECAZES.

(Translation.)

M. le Marquis, *Versailles, December* 2, 1878.

IN a telegraphic despatch of the 18th October last, I informed you of the serious inconveniences likely to arise for our Colony of Guiana from a recent decision, and one entirely unanticipated by us, in consequence of which the Indian emigration service directed to Guiana would be temporarily suspended.

There is nothing in the accounts which reach us from Cayenne to lead us to suppose that the sanitary condition of that country, at the present moment, causes any special uneasiness, while as regards the hygienic measures adopted by our administration for the protection of the coolies against the unfortunate influences of the climate, the correspondence which has passed between my department and the English Ambassador at Paris would be sufficient to show clearly the care and forethought of our authorities.

The English Consul at Cayenne has himself borne testimony to the vigilance displayed by M. le Commandant Laubère, and in a still recent case an official expression of their satisfaction has been addressed to us by Her Majesty's Government.

I repeat to you, therefore, that I am convinced that some misapprehension exists which it is most important to remove, and I request you without delay to address yourself to the Principal Secretary of State on this subject, calling his attention to the very serious detriment to which our colony would be exposed, were she to find herself unexpectedly deprived of the large supplies of labourers upon which she is counting, and to render whose condition as satisfactory as possible she has neglected no precaution.

In case any objections, the nature of which I do not foresee, should be raised to the request which I have directed you to make to Lord Derby, we should deem it of much value if the English Government would consent, without such action being held to form a precedent which might hamper her future resolutions, at least to remove the obstacles placed in the way of the departure of those drafts which are at this moment ready to leave Pondicherry, and whose embarkation has been delayed, while their arrival is impatiently expected in Guiana.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) DECAZES.

No. 7.

Mr. Lister to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 9, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Duc Decazes, dated 2nd instant, which has been communicated to his Lordship by the French Ambassador.* It relates to the question of coolie emigration to French Guiana, to which your letter of the 16th ultimo referred; and I am to say that, before making any communication to the Marquis d'Harcourt in the sense of that letter, Lord Derby would be glad to be informed whether there is anything in the despatch from the Duc Decazes which would cause the Marquis of Salisbury to desire any alteration or addition to be made to the note which his Lordship, in the letter from the India Office above referred to, has already suggested should be addressed to the Marquis d'Harcourt on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

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* No. 6.

No. 8.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have not failed to communicate to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India a copy of the despatch from the Duc Decazes on the subject of coolie immigration to French Guiana, which your Excellency was good enough to place in my hands; and I hope shortly to be in a position to make a further communication to you on the subject.

I have the honour herewith to return the despatch in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 9.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 16.)

My Lord, *India Office, December* 16, 1876.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's letter of the 9th instant, inclosing copy of a note from the Duc Decazes to the French Ambassador in London on the subject of the suspension of emigration from India to French Guiana.

In reply I am desired to inform the Earl of Derby that there appears to be nothing in the Duc Decazes' note which requires any modification of the communication which Lord Derby may cause to be addressed to his Excellency in consequence of my letter of the 16th November last.

Mr. Consul Wooldridge's Report for the first six months of the present year* has already been forwarded to the Government of India, who will be glad to observe the improvement that has taken place in the rate of mortality and in other respects; but the objections of that Government extended to other matters, such as the unhealthiness of the Colony for East Indians, and to the work on the gold washings on which the immigrants are employed. These objections the Government of India did not think were sufficiently counterbalanced by the effects of the local Administration for improvements, and its cordial co-operation with the Consul. Mr. Wooldridge, in his Report already referred to, which was transmitted with Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 28th ultimo, mentions that some of the complaints he received lately were for neglectful or injudicious treatment under illness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

No. 10.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1876.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the question of coolie immigration from India to French Guiana, I transmit to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from the Government of India on this subject;† and a copy of a note which I have consequently addressed to the French Ambassador in London.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Inclosure in No. 5. † Inclosure in No. 4. ‡ No. 11.

No. 11.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1876.

I LOST no time in communicating to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council a copy of the despatch addressed to your Excellency on the 2nd instant, by the Duc Decazes, on the question of Indian coolie immigration to French Guiana, and I have now the honour to inclose for communication to your Goverment an extract of a despatch received from the Indian Government,* stating the reasons which have induced them to suspend this immigration, and the conditions under which they are willing to consent to its resumption.

In conection with this subject I would beg leave to remind your Excellency of the correspondence which passed between Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and the French Government in October and December last, in which it appears that the Government of India, in a review of the Report of Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne for the year 1874, pointed out certain deficiencies in the regulations adopted by the French authorities, and required that, before the resumption of immigration operations could be permitted, remedial measures should be carried into effect.

The reply of your Government was duly transmitted to the Government of India on the 27th January last, and the later despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne have since been forwarded to that Government, but a consideration of these documents and of the Consul's Report for 1875 has led his Excellency in Council to exercise the power vested in him by the Legislature, and to suspend the emigration.

Under these circumstances I have the honour to request your Excellency to express to the Duc Decazes the regret of Her Majesty's Government that they feel themselves unable to interfere with the discretion of the Governor-General of India in Council regarding this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 12.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Consul Wooldridge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of India in Council on the subject of coolie immigration from India to French Guiana,† and I am to instruct you to report fully year by year on the condition of the Indian immigrants in French Guiana, and to continue your watchful supervision over their interests and well-being.

I am further to inclose for your information a copy of a note which Lord Derby has addressed to the French Ambassador in London on the question of the suspension of this immigration.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 13.

The Duc Decazes to the Marquis d'Harcourt.§—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, January* 22.)

M. le Marquis, *Versailles, le* 13 *Janvier,* 1877.

LA lettre que je vous ai adressée le 10 de ce mois au sujet des conditions de travail et d'existence faites aux coolies Indiens dans notre Colonie de la Guyane, venait d'être expédiée lorsque j'ai reçu de mon collègue M. le Ministre de la Marine une nouvelle communication, à laquelle étaient annexés des documents dont je crois devoir vous transmettre des extraits pour compléter les informations que je vous ai déjà fait parvenir à ce sujet. Le rapport circonstancié du Commandant Loubère et ceux des

* Inclosure in No. 4 (Extract.) † Inclosure in No. 4. ‡ No. 11.
§ Communicated to India Office, February 2.

Inspecteurs de l'Emigration dans notre Colonie attestent de la façon la plus convaincante les efforts que notre administration a multipliés, depuis deux ans, pour améliorer dans une proportion très-sensible la situation des travailleurs Indiens. Ce serait bien peu reconnaître le louable zèle dont elle se montre animée que de suspendre le recrutement des coolies, dans le moment même où les importants résultats obtenus nous donneraient des motifs de compter, au contraire, sur des témoignages de satisfaction de la part du Gouvernement de la Reine. Je persiste donc, comme je vous l'écrivais la semaine passée, à croire à l'existence d'un malentendu qu'il est urgent de dissiper, et je vous prie de vous y employer sans retard dès que vous trouverez l'occasion de vous en entretenir de nouveau avec Lord Derby.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DECAZES.

(Translation.)

M. le Marquis, *Versailles, January* 13, 1878.

THE letter that I addressed to you on the 10th instant on the subject of the condition of labour and life incident to Indian coolies in our Colony of Guiana, had just been dispatched when I received from my colleague, the Minister of Marine, a further communication, to which were attached documents, from which I think it right to send you extracts, in order to complete the information which I have forwarded to you on this subject. The circumstantial Report of Commander Laubère and those of the Inspectors of Emigration in our Colony, bear testimony in the most convincing manner to the efforts which our Administration has multiplied during the last two years for the amelioration, in a very sensible degree, of the condition of the Indian labourers. It would be, indeed, but a scanty recognition of the praiseworthy zeal by which they have shown themselves animated to suspend the coolie recruitment at the very moment when the important results already obtained would give us grounds to expect, on the contrary, assurances of satisfaction from Her Majesty's Government.

I continue to feel convinced, then, as I wrote to you last week, of the existence of a misapprehension which it is most important to remove, and I beg you, therefore, to occupy yourself with this matter without delay, so soon as you find an opportunity of discussing the subject afresh with Lord Derby.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) DECAZES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Extrait du Rapport de M. le Médecin Hemenry, faisant partie de la Commission d'Inspection d'Immigration, sur la tournée dans les quartiers de Tonnegrande, de Montsinery, de Macouria et de Roura.

Du 5 Août, 1876.

IL résulte de l'ensemble de ce rapport que, sauf de rares exceptions, le sort fait aux immigrants sur les divers établissements que nous avons visités, répond complétement aux vœux de l'Administration. Nous n'avons eu à constater de vraies infractions aux règlements que sur des habitations sans importance dont l'exploitation repayerait à peine leur propriétaire.

Nous sommes heureux d'ailleurs de pouvoir déclarer que, partout sur notre passage, les propriétaires ou régisseurs d'exploitations aurifères se sont montrés pleins de bonne volonté pour entendre les recommandations, ou écouter les conseils que nous inspirait la situation dans l'intérêt sanitaire des établissements. Ils semblent tous pénétrés de cette idée, juste d'ailleurs, que l'intérêt du maître est intimement lié à la santé de l'ouvrier et que l'immigrant ne fournit un travail réellement efficace qu'à la condition d'être bien traité.

(Translation.)

Extract of Report of Dr. Hemenry, one of the Commission for the Inspection of Immigration, on his Tour in the Districts of Tonnegrande, Montsinery, Macouria, and Roura.

August 5, 1876.

IT results from the general tenour of this Report that, with few exceptions, the condition of immigrants in the various establishments that we have visited agrees entirely with the views of the Administration. The only real infractions of the Regulations

which we have had to investigate were in the case of some unimportant dwellings from whence the trade would scarcely repay the expenses of their proprietor. With this exception we are happy to be able to declare that throughout the whole of our tour the proprietors and superintendents of gold workings showed themselves heartily willing to listen to the recommendations or advice on our part which were dictated by the circumstances of the case in view of the sanitary interests of the establishments.

They all appeared pervaded with the idea, and that, too, a very correct one, that the interest of the master is intimately connected with the health of the workman, and that good treatment is the only condition under which the immigrant supplies really effective work.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Extrait du Rapport de M. l'Inspecteur de l'Immigration Bontan sur sa tournée dans les quartiers de Tonnegrande, de Montsinery, de Macouria, et de Roura.

Du 4 *Août*, 1876.

EN résumé, et comme considérations générales, M. le Directeur, sauf quelques rares exceptions, la situation faite aux immigrants sur les habitations ou placers est des plus acceptables. J'ai eu occasion depuis quatre ans de voir de nombreuses fois des ateliers de coolies, et je puis affirmer que leur situation actuelle est loin d'être ce qu'elle était autrefois. Les logements sont sains et relativement confortables, le couchage y est bon, et à peu-près partout pourvu de moustiquaires, les vivres de bonne qualité, et la ration règlementaire ; les salaires surtout très exactement payés.

Je crois devoir attribuer le manque de médicaments règlementaires sur un grand nombre d'établissements moins à la mauvaise volonté ou à l'incurie des engagistes qu'aux difficultés qu'ils éprouvent tant pour leur application que pour leur conservation. Du reste, la plupart des gens qui se trouvent à la tête de ces diverses exploitations ont, en général, affaire à des affections pour lesquelles ils ont des traitements spéciaux prises dans les ressources du pays, et dont le résultat, souvent favorable, n'offre pas les inconvénients que peut présenter l'emploi de médicaments plus actifs peut-être, mais parfois dangereux entre des mains inexpérimentées.

Sur tous les établissements un peu importantes il existe des tarifs de cessions approuvés par qui de droit, et dont le taux modique permet à l'immigrant de se procurer aisément tous les petits objets de luxe que n'accorde pas le règlement. On trouve en outre chez les propriétaires et régisseurs beaucoup de bon vouloir à accepter toute modification qui peut être utile à l'atelier, et à part certains coolies peu nombreux qui, par leur nature apathique et insouciante, rendent infructueux les soins qui leur sont donnés, l'aspect des travailleurs est celui de gens heureux. Le plus grand nombre acquièrent des habitudes de propreté, je dirai presque d'élégance, qui les rend tels qu'on n'a pas l'habitude de les voir à leur arrivée dans la colonie. Les réclamations sont à peu-près nulles de leur part, et tous en général s'accordent au contraire à rendre à leurs propriétaires des témoignages de satisfaction. Je me suis attaché dans mon inspection à bien démontrer aux immigrants que si l'Administration, dans sa sollicitude pour eux, exigeait qu'il leur fut donné largement tout le bien-être possible, elle entendait aussi qu'ils reconnussent la chose en contractant des habitudes de travail, d'obéissance, de respect, et de discipline nécessaires à la bonne tenue des établissements, et que protectrice rigoureuse de leurs droits elle reprimerait sévèrement aussi tout fait tendant à apporter le trouble dans l'atelier, et toute habitude de paresse non justifiée.

(Translation.)

Extract of the Report of M. Bontan, Inspector of Immigration, on his Journey in the Districts of Tonnegrande, Montsinery, Macouria, and Roura.

August 4, 1876.

TO sum up, M. le Directeur, as a general rule, with some rare exceptions, the position accorded to immigrants is as acceptable as possible. I have had the opportunity in the last four years on numerous occasions of seeing coolie workshops, and I am able to state that their present condition is far different from what it was formerly. Their dwellings are healthy and comparatively comfortable ; their bedding is good and for the most part provided with mosquitoe curtains ; their food is good in quality, and of regulation amount ; and, above all, their salaries are paid very punctually.

I think that the want of regulation medicines is attributable not so much to the ill-will or carelessness of the employers as to the difficulties experienced in the application and the preservation of the drugs.

Further, the majority of the persons who find themselves at the head of these various undertakings are usually subject to complaints, for which they make use of special treatments drawn from the resources of the country, and the result of which, favourable in many cases, does not present the same inconveniences as the use of drugs, which, if perhaps more powerful, are often dangerous in the hands of inexperienced persons.

In all the moderately-important establishments there are tariffs of indulgences approved by the authorities, the moderate rate of which allows the immigrant to provide himself without difficulty with all the small luxuries not afforded by the Regulations.

Moreover, a great deal of good-will is shown by the proprietors and Directors in accepting any modification which is likely to be of service to the workshop, and with the exception of some coolies inconsiderable in numbers, whose apathetic and indifferent characters render the pains taken on their behalf useless, the aspect of the workmen is that of people who are happy. The majority of them acquire habits of cleanliness, I might almost say elegance, which makes them appear very different from what one is accustomed to see on their arrival in the colony.

There are scarcely any complaints on their part, and they all as a rule unite in testifying to their employers their contentment.

I made it my special object on my inspection to point out clearly to the immigrants that if the Administration, in its solicitude for their welfare, demanded that all possible comfort should be liberally afforded them, it expected them on their part to recognize the fact by acquiring the habits of industry, obedience, respect, and discipline necessary for the well-being of the establishments; and while a vigorous protector of their rights, it would at the same time repress with a strong hand everything likely to create trouble in the workshop and all habits of unjustifiable idleness.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

The Governor of French Guiana to the Minister of Marine and Colonies.

(Extrait.)

Cayenne, le 3 *Septembre*, 1876.

PAR ma lettre du 3 Février, 1876, j'avais l'honneur de rendre compte à votre Excellence des nouvelles dispositions que j'avais cru devoir prendre en vue d'assurer, dans la plus large mesure possible, la protection des immigrants. Ces dispositions consistaient notamment dans la création d'une seconde Commission d'Inspection appelée à fonctionner simultanément avec celle instituée dès 1874, afin que tous les établissements qui emploient des immigrants pussent être visités désormais d'une manière permanente.

J'ai l'honneur de rendre compte aujourd'hui au Département des résultats très satisfaisants des inspections de l'immigration pendant le premier semestre, 1876.

Durant cette période, les deux commissions ont incessamment et simultanément fonctionné dans les quartiers les plus importants de la colonie, savoir: Kouron Macouria, Roura, Moarra et Maroni, Ile de Cayenne, Sinnamary, Tonnegrande et Montsinery: quelques unes de ces localités ont même été inspectées plusieurs fois quand cela a été nécessaire. En outre l'une de ces commissions est actuellement en tournée à Appronague et l'autre vient de partir pour Mana et les placers du Maroni.

L'ensemble de constatations faites jusqu'à ce jour par les inspecteurs et par les médecins qui les accompagnent démontre de la manière la plus évidente que la situation des immigrants s'est notablement améliorée, par comparaison avec les précédentes inspections. Il ne pouvait, en effet, en être autrement, si l'on considère qu'avec le système d'investigation inauguré depuis 1874, et complété cette année, partout oùt des irrégularités sont relevées, elles motivent des redressements dont l'application ess incessamment surveillée.

On peut donc dire que le bienfait des dispositions tutélaires des Arrêtés des 13 Juin, 1874, et 28 Janvier, 1876, devient chaque jour de plus en plus complet, de telle sorte que les inspecteurs n'auront plus bientôt, dans leurs tournées, qu'à s'attacher à faire petit à petit disparaître les derniers vestiges des négligences antérieurement reprochées à un grand nombre d'exploitations.

C'est ainsi que les établissements qui n'étaient pas pourvus d'infirmerie convénablement installée ont dû se hâter d'en construire pour échapper aux graves

conséquences de leur abstention ; les logements incomplets ou en mauvais état ont été réparés, ou sont en cours d'installation ; les délivrances des vêtements en retard ont eu lieu ; le couchage insuffisant a été modifié ; l'approvisionnement des magasins en vivres et en médicaments a été l'objet de notables améliorations ; enfin le règlement des salaires a motivé, partout où il ne se faisait pas régulièrement, des mises en demeure qui ont généralement amené des résultats conformes aux intérêts des travailleurs et à la légalité.

Telle est, M. le Ministre, la situation exacte sur la généralité des exploitations, et je me hâte d'ajouter que les rares exceptions qui subsistent encore sont de la part du syndicat protecteur, toujours en éveil, l'objet de poursuites en résiliation de contrats.

J'ai, en outre, la satisfaction de constater que la mauvaise situation sanitaire des coolies elles-mêmes, qui était du, en grande partie, il faut le reconnaître, aux difficultés inhérentes à l'acclimatement, tend chaque jour à se modifier sensiblement.

A tous ces bons résultats nous ne tarderons pas, M. le Ministre, à pouvoir ajouter ceux que nous devons légitimement attendre des deux nouveaux hospices, dont la création dans les quartiers de Mana et de Sinnamary a été aussi prévue par l'Arrêté du 28 Janvier, 1876, le premier est en fonctionnement, et le second en voie d'installation. Nous pourrons donc désormais, dans ces deux localités importantes, recueillir et soigner immédiatement les immigrants gravement malades qui descendent des placers, au lieu de les laisser repartir pour Cayenne, souvent au grand risque de voir ce retard aggraver leur état.

En somme, la situation actuelle est satisfaisante et elle promet de ne plus laisser aux doléances antérieures du Gouvernement Anglais le moindre motif sérieux de se produire, mais ces résultats n'ont pas été obtenus sans de persévérants efforts, sans de légitimes sévérités produites ou arrêtés à propos, ou même parfois poussées jusqu'à une punition exemplaire.

C'est ainsi que, antérieurement à 1876, le Comité d'Inspection avait eu à constater des faits graves sur le placer de Georgis situé à Roura ; les coolies ne recevaient aucun soin, les rations étaient incomplètes, et les vivres de mauvaise qualité ; enfin, les travailleurs n'étaient pas payés depuis plusieurs mois et n'avaient reçu ni vêtements ni objets de couchage depuis un an, nonobstant les recommandations les plus pressantes du Commissaire de l'Immigration. Le Syndicat Protecteur adressa au mandataire de l'engagiste, alors absent de la Colonie, les mises en demeure règlementaires, et au moment où les poursuites en vue du retrait de ses travailleurs allaient avoir lieu, le concessionnaire du placer arrivait à Cayenne et se hâtait de prendre des mesures radicales pour faire cesser les abus. Il révoquait son mandataire, congédiait le directeur du placer, faisait payer les salaires des immigrants, qui furent mêmes indemnisés en raison de ce qu'ils avaient souffert. Les vêtements et les effets de couchage furent immédiatement délivrés, les magasins de vivres furent approvisionnés et les réparations ou la construction des logements furent immédiatement commencées. De telle sorte que, aujourd'hui, cet établissement est complètement régénéré et les immigrants recevant avec exactitude tout ce qui leur est dû, y sont très satisfaits de leur sort.

A Macouria, l'habitation Vigné, livrée aux mains d'un fermier dénué de ressources, occupait onze Indiens qui vivaient dans le plus complet dénûment. Une mise en demeure ayant été fait sans résultat, la résiliation des contrats a été prononcée et les coolies ont été placés chez d'autres engagistes, après avoir reçu le montant de leurs salaires arriérés.

A Sinnamary, le placer Bérard et Cie. occupait un certain nombre d'Indiens qui, depuis la mort de M. Bérard, étaient délaissés par ses co-associés, dont aucun ne voulait prendre charge de l'établissement ; or, ces travailleurs obtinrent, par l'intermédiaire du Syndicat Protecteur, la résiliation de leurs contrats et furent placés, par les soins de l'administration, chez d'autres engagistes qui eurent à les indemniser pour les salaires qui leur étaient dus.

Dans le même quartier, M. Meussier n'avait pas payé et délivré des vêtements à ses travailleurs. Il allait être poursuivi en résiliation d'engagement, lorsque, allant au devant de la mesure, il céda son placer à une société à laquelle les coolies furent transférés, après avoir reçu ce qui leur était dû en salaires et en vêtements.

Quelques autres manquements, de peu d'importance d'ailleurs, voies de fait ou sévices peu graves, de la part des engagistes ou de chefs d'établissements envers des travailleurs, ont amené des condamnations correctionnelles ou de simple police, qui ont toujours entraîné la résiliation des contrats.

D'un autre côté, plusieurs autres différends se sont produits, en matière de règlement de salaires, entre engagistes et engagés ; mais tous, ou presque tous, ont été conciliés, soit par l'intermédiaire du Commissaire de l'Immigration, soit devant le

Syndicat Protecteur; quelques-uns seulement ont été portés devant le Juge de Paix et la partie lésée a toujours reçu satisfaction.

Ainsi que le voit votre Excellence, grâce au système actuel des inspections permanentes, aucun manquement sérieux ne pourra désormais échapper aux investigations administratives, et tout permet de croire que ces manquements seront de plus en plus rares, la sévérité de la répression étant de nature à modifier les dispositions des engagistes les plus rebelles à l'application de nos règlements, si conformes à la fois aux devoirs de l'humanité et aux vrais intérêts du pays.

Je crois devoir joindre à la présente lettre deux extraits des rapports de l'Inspecteur et du médecin qui ont fait la dernière tournée à Roura; ils résument en quelques lignes et de la manière la plus précise les résultats généraux déjà obtenus.

Comme vous le voyez, M. le Ministre, en faisant ressortir la situation en général satisfaisante du régime actuel de l'immigration, j'ai tenu à faire ressortir les quelques faits graves, soit anciens soit nouveaux, que l'administration a eu à réprimer cette année; ce qu'elle a fait, grâce à l'utile et puissante assistance de l'autorité judiciaire avec une sévérité dont, je le répète, les effets ne tarderont pas à se faire sentir complètement.

Ces faits, au reste, ne sont pas nombreux, si l'on considère la dessémination considérable de nos ateliers répartis sur un nombre d'exploitations d'environ 110 et sur une surface de territoire qui n a pas moins de 340 kilomètres de longeur sur 160 kilomètres de profondeur.

Aussi n'hésite-je pas à dire que la surveillance et la répression que peut exercer aujourd'hui si utilement l'administration est due en majeure partie à la création de nos deux inspections. Par leur fonctionnement permanent, elles tiennent les engagistes en garde contre les abus auxquels ils pourraient s'abandonner souvent par pure négligence, car je me hâte de l'ajouter, en général les habitants sont soucieux de l'accomplissement de leurs devoirs, et à la Guyane l'immigrant est aussi heureux et possède, sous certains rapports, plus d'avantages que dans les autres colonies.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) *Cayenne, September* 3, 1876.

IN my letter of the 3rd February, 1876, I had the honour to give your Excellency an account of the new arrangements which I thought it my duty to take with a view to insuring to the fullest extent possible the protection of the immigrants. These arrangements consisted notably in the creation of a second Commission of Inspection called upon to act simultaneously with that instituted in 1874, so that all establishments which employ immigrants might henceforth be visited in a permanent manner.

I have the honour to-day to give an account to your Department of the very satisfactory results of the inspections of immigrants during the first six months of 1876.

During this period the Commissions have been incessantly and simultaneously employed in the most important quarters of the Colony, viz., Kouron, Macouria, Rama, Moarra, and Maroni, Isle of Cayenne, Sinnamary, Tonnegrande and Montsinery; some of these places have even been inspected on several occasions, when that was necessary. Moreover, one of these Commissions is at present on a tour of inspection at Appronague, and the other has just started for Marca and the districts of Maroni.

The general tenour of the results arrived at up to the present time by the Inspectors and by the medical men who accompanied them, proves in the clearest manner that the condition of the immigrants has undergone a marked improvement, by comparison with previous inspections. It is impossible, indeed, to be otherwise, when we consider that, under the system of inspection inaugurated since 1874, and completed this year, wherever irregularities have arisen, they give rise to remedial improvements, the application of which is unceasingly watched.

One is entitled to say, then, that the benefit of the protective arrangements of the Acts of the 14th June, 1874, and 26th January, 1876, are increasing day by day in efficacy, insomuch that the inspectors will shortly, upon their tours, have only to make it their object to cause the gradual disappearance of the last traces of those neglects which formerly were the reproach of so large a number of works.

It was thus that establishments which were not provided with a suitably equipped infirmary were compelled to construct one in haste in order to avoid the serious consequences entailed by their want of one. The lodgings which were incomplete, or in bad condition, have been repaired, or in course of completion; the supply of clothing which was in arrears has been issued; the insufficient sleeping accommo-

dation has been improved; the supply of provisions and medicines for the shops has been the subject of marked improvements; finally, the regulation of salaries has been the cause of the issue of intimations to pay (mises en demeure) in all cases where payments had been irregular, which have brought about results in accordance with the interests of the employés and with justice.

Such, M. le Ministre, is the precise condition of things in the majority of the establishments, and I hasten to state that the few exceptions which still remain are the objects of prosecution for the cancelling of contracts at the hands of the Protecting Syndicate, who are always on the alert.

I have further the satisfaction to assure you that the bad sanitary condition of the coolies themselves, which it must be admitted was in a great degree due to the inherent difficulties of acclimatization, has a perceptible tendency to improve from day to day.

In addition to all these good results we must add those which we have a right to expect from the two new hospitals, the establishment of which was also provided by the Decree of 28th January, 1876, the first of which is now in working order, and the second is in process of organization. We shall be able then henceforth, in these two important localities, to collect and care for immediately the serious cases of sick immigrants who have the places, instead of allowing them to leave again for Cayenne, often with the serious risk of seeing the condition made worse by the delay. To sum up, the present state of things is satisfactory, and gives promise of not affording the slightest serious ground for the previous complaints of the English Government; but these results have not been obtained without persevering efforts, without acts of legal severity brought into action or decreed on purpose, and sometimes even carried to the extent of an exemplary punishment.

It was thus that, previous to 1876, the Committee of Inspection had to investigate some serious facts connected with the placer of Georgis, situated at Roura; the coolies received no attention whatever, their rations were imperfect, and the food bad in quality; in short, the workmen had been unpaid for several months, and had received neither clothes nor bedding for a year, notwithstanding the most urgent remonstrances on the part of the Immigration Commissioners.

The Protecting Syndicate addressed to the agent of the employer, who was then absent from the Colony, formal intimation to pay, and at the very moment when the prosecutions in view of the retirement of the workmen were about to take place, the concessionnaire of the placer arrived at Cayenne and hastened to take radical measures to put an end to these abuses. He cancelled his agent's appointment, dismissed the director of the placer, caused the the immigrants' salaries to be paid, and the coolies themselves to be indemnified for their sufferings. Clothes and bedding were at once issued, the provision shops were re-victualled, and the repairs or new building of lodgings was set on foot at once. So much so, that, at the present time the establishment is entirely re-organized, and the immigrants, who now receive punctual payment of what is due to them, are well satisfied with their condition there.

At Macouria, at the "habitation Vigné," which had been handed over to a broken-down and ruined farmer, there were eleven Indians who were living in the most utter destitution. An intimation to pay had been issued without effect, the contracts had been pronounced void, and the coolies had been placed with other employers after receiving the amount of their arrears of salary.

At Sinnamary, in the placer of Berard and Co., there were living a certain number of Indians, who, since M. Berard's death, had been abandoned by the other partners of the firm, none of whom would take charge of the establishment; yet, thanks to the intervention of the Protecting Syndicate, these labourers obtained a cancelling of their contracts, and were placed by the cares of the Administration under fresh employers, who had to indemnify them for the salaries which were owing to them.

In the same quarter M. Meussier had neither paid nor supplied clothing to his workpeople. He was about to be prosecuted with a view to cancelling his engagement, when, in anticipation of this measure, he made over the placer to a Company, to whom the coolies were transferred, after having received the pay and clothing which was due to them.

Some other derelictions, and of small importance, moreover, acts of violence, or slight ill-usage on the part of contractors or heads of establishments towards their employés, have brought about judgments from the Court of Correction or the Police Court, which have always involved an annulment of the contracts.

In another quarter, several other differences arose regarding the regulation of

salaries between the employers and their workpeople; but all, or almost all, of these were brought to a satisfactory settlement either by the intervention of the Immigration Commissioners, or before the Protecting Syndicate; only a few of them were carried before the Justice of the Peace, and the injured party always obtained satisfaction.

Thus, as your Excellency sees, thanks to the present system of permanent inspections, no serious dereliction can henceforth escape the investigations of the authorities, and everything gives reason to expect that these derelictions will become more and more rare, for the severity in repressing them is such as to mould the inclinations of the most unruly contractors to the application of our regulations, which are at once so much in harmony with the duties of humanity and the true interests of the country.

I think it right to annex to the present letter two extracts from the reports of the inspector and doctor who made the last tour to Roura. They condense, in a few lines, and in the most accurate manner, the general results hitherto obtained.

As you see, M. le Ministre, while bringing out in relief the generally satisfactory state of the present system of immigration, I have made a point of bringing out also those few serious cases, whether of old standing or of recent date, which the Administration has had to correct during this year, a course which they have pursued, thanks to the useful and powerful assistance of the judicial authority, with a severity which will, I repeat, make its effects felt without delay.

These cases, moreover, are not numerous, when you consider the very scattered condition of our workshops, distributed over a number of about a hundred works, and over an area of country of not less than 340 kilom. in length, by 160 in breadth.

Furthermore, I have no hesitation in saying that the supervision and repression, which the administration is enable to exercise at present with such good effect, is for the most part due to the organization of our two inspections.

By this permanent action, they keep the contractors on their guard against the abuses to which they might often give way out of mere carelessness, for I must add that in general the inhabitants are attentive to the performance of their duties, and that in Guiana the immigrant is as happy, and in some ways possesses even more advantages than in other Colonies.

No. 14.

Consul Wooldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 27.)

Cayenne, January 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to inform your Lordship that an announcement has appeared in the official journal of this Colony, dated the 9th ultimo, stating that the recruiting of coolies in British India for emigration to French Guiana has been prohibited by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE.

No. 15.

The Marquis d'Harcourt to the Earl of Derby—(Received May 4.)

Londres, le 3 *Mai*, 1877.

M. le Comte,

JE prends la liberté d'appeler de nouveau l'attention de votre Excellence sur le grave préjudice qu'apporte aux intérêts de notre Colonie de la Guyane l'application d'une mesure du Gouvernement de l'Inde, en vertu de laquelle le service de l'émigration Indienne à destination de cette colonie a été suspendu dans le courant du mois d'Octobre dernier.

Me référant aux communications de cette Ambassade, je propose à votre Excellence de vouloir bien provisoirement provoquer la levée des obstacles apportés au départ des convois de coolies qui devaient partir de Pondicherry au mois d'Octobre, et dont l'embarquement a été retardé depuis cette époque.

Une semblable décision n'engagerait en rien les résolutions à venir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, et permettrait de poursuivre l'enquête ouverte sur les conditions

sanitaires de l'établissement des coolies à la Guyane. Le Gouverneur de notre colonie vient, au reste, d'instituer une Commission chargée de procéder, sous la présidence du Procureur-Général près la Cour d'Appel, à une enquête approfondie sur les faits qui paraissent avoir éveillé la sollicitude du Gouvernement Britannique. Cette mesure toute spontanée est une preuve nouvelle des sentiments dont s'inspire notre Administration Coloniale à l'égard des sujets de la Reine.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D'HARCOURT.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *London, May* 3, 1877.

I TAKE the liberty of calling your Excellency's attention afresh to the serious detriment entailed on the interests of our Colony of Guiana by the application of a measure of the Government of India, in virtue of which the emigration service from India to this Colony was suspended during the course of October last.

With reference to (previous) communications from this Embassy, I would suggest that your Excellency should have the goodness to take measures provisionally for the removal of the obstacles placed in the way of the departure of the batches of coolies who ought to have left Pondichery in the month of October, and whose embarcation has been delayed since that time.

Such a decision would not bind in any respect the future resolutions of Her Majesty's Government, and would allow the investigation now entered upon with respect to the sanitary condition of the coolie establishments in Guiana to be carried out. The Governor of our Colony, moreover, has just established a Commission, whose duty it is, under the direction of the Procureur-Général of the Court of Appeal, to proceed to a thorough investigation of the facts which appear to have excited the anxiety of the English Government. This measure, which is quite spontaneous, is a fresh proof of the sentiments by which our Colonial Administration is animated with regard to the Queen's subjects.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) D'HARCOURT.

No. 16.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1877.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the stoppage of the emigration of coolies from Pondicherry to the French Colony of Guiana, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for India in Council that the French Ambassador in this country has again represented with great urgency the serious loss and inconvenience which will be inflicted on that colony if permission is not granted for the coolies to proceed to their destination who were assembled at Pondicherry in the month of October last, and who were prevented from embarking in consequence of the orders issued by the Indian Government putting a stop to the recruitment of coolies French Guiana.

His Excellency states that the desire of his Government is that the regulations enforcing that stoppage may be temporarily suspended, and adds that the Governor of French Guiana has appointed a Commission to inquire into all the circumstances relating to coolie life in that colony which have caused the anxiety felt on the point by the Indian Government.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the desire shown by the French Government to meet the wishes of the Indian Government, Lord Derby would be glad to learn that the Indian Government are able to extend in respect of this shipment of coolies the same indulgence they recently granted to the Netherlands Government with regard to a shipment to Surinam, on such terms as the circumstances of the case may justify.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1877.

I HAVE communicated to the Secretary of State for India the request contained in the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 3rd instant that the obstacles which are at present placed in the way of coolies immigrating from Pondicherry to the French Colony of Guiana may be removed, and I trust shortly to be in a position to forward to your Excellency a favourable reply on this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 18.

Consul Wooldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

My Lord, *Cayenne, April* 11, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my report on the condition of coolies in French Guiana, during the year 1876, which also comprises the second half-yearly mortality report.

I beg to state that a copy of the above has been forwarded by me direct to the Indian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Annual Report (including the Second Half-yearly Mortality Report) on the Condition of Indian Immigrants in French Guiana.—Year 1876.

THE return of the mortality among the Indian immigrants during the second half of the year 1876, as supplied to me by the Indian Immigration Department, shows, if not a further improvement of consequence on that of the first half of the same year, at least that there has been no retrogression from the favourable sanitary and social position of the coolie population in French Guiana as reported by me last half.

2. The mortality between the 1st July and 31st December, 1876, has been as follows:—

Population on 1st July, 1876	3,593
Births during 2nd half of 1876	38
Total	3,631
Deaths during 2nd half of 1876	144
Death-rate per cent.	3·96

Of the above deaths 126 were adults, and 18 non-adults; 105 males, and 39 females.

3. Of the last arrival in 1876 (per "Dunphaile Castle," 12th May), 42 deaths figure in the above total, being 9·9 per cent. loss on her complement brought. This proportion is more favourable than that among the complement arrived per "Marie Laure" at the same period in 1875, having been 73 out of 351. The next largest figure among the deaths is noticed among the arrivals from Calcutta in the early part of the year 1874, viz., 36 deaths. Again, 38 of the total were those of old coolies who had arrived in the colony before the year 1867, and on the whole the death-rate, through acclimatisation, does not appear to be excessive nor so large as in former introductions.

4. No coolies have been introduced into the colony during the second half of the year 1876. The "Marie Laure" appeared off the port on the 8th November, but as she had small-pox on board, she was ordered to undergo a quarantine at one of the islands and land her coolies there, and, as they were only brought to Cayenne on the

4th January, 1877, this complement will appear in my next half-yearly report at the end of June.

The death-rate per cent. during the second half of 1875 was	5·66
The death-rate per cent. during the second half of 1876 was	3·96
Difference in favour of 1876	1·70
The death-rate per cent. during the first half of 1876 was	3·75
The death-rate per cent. during the second half of 1876 was	3·96
Difference in favour of first half	0·21

5. The total death-rate per cent. per annum during the last three years was as follows :—

1874 (when 4 vessels arrived)	12·50
1875 (when 1 vessel arrived)	12·15
1876 (when 1 vessel arrived)	7·58

And there is no doubt that the year 1876, identical as it has been with 1875, as regards the coolies introduced, the ports of departure and the arrivals in the same months, and that the complement in 1876 exceeded that in 1875 by 72, shows a more favourable result in the coolie situation. As I mentioned in my last half-yearly report, I only hope that this gradual improvement may be due to the more constant watch kept over the coolies' interests; for, as far as I can judge, the local government continues firmly to prosecute employers who act unjustly towards their coolies, and as for the cases which have come before me during the year 1876, to the number of 69, by coolies against their employers, which I have, in my turn, brought before the Administration for Adjudication, I find by my register-book of complaints that they were all settled satisfactorily, with one grave exception, in which the law failed apparently.

6. The mortality at the different quarters during the second half of 1876 was as follows :—

	Deaths.
Appronague	6
Kaw	3
Macouria	2
Mana	29
Roura	7
Sinnamary	16
Tonnegrande	1
Oyapock	2
Ile de Cayenne	17
Town of Cayenne	61
Total	144

7. It will be remarked that the mortality at Appronague has greatly decreased the last two years, as follows :—

Mortality at Appronague during 1st half of 1875	106
" " " 2nd ditto	40
" " " 1st half of 1876	29
" " " 2nd ditto	6

Which is owing to the labourers being mostly acclimatised, and to the "Grande Compagnie d'Exploitation Aurifère et Agricole" at Mataroni only having increased the strength of its establishment since 1874 by sixty-three hands. The slight increase in the mortality at Mana is doubtless due to the presence of new goldfields being worked in that unhealthy spot, and to a consequent addition to the number of labourers engaged to work in that locality. In the town of Cayenne, the large proportion of sixty-one in the total mortality is owing, as stated in former reports, not to the greater insalubrity of the place over the other quarters, but to the fact that invalids, some in an almost dying state, have been forwarded to Cayenne from the other quarters, and have died in the hospitals. Yellow fever made its appearance in the town of Cayenne in the month of November, but no coolies have been attacked by it, and it seems to be generally recognised and almost beyond doubt that coolies are not amenable to this peculiar disease, though they are liable to attacks from the country fever.

8. During the second half-year of 1876, fifty-two transfers took place from one

employer to another, and only eighteen re-engagements at the Immigration Office, for the following periods :—

	Re-engagements.
For seven years	2
„ five „	3
„ three „	1
„ two „	4
„ one year	8
Total	18

9. The total number of immigrants existing in the Colony on the 31st December, 1876, was as follows :—

Male adults	2.088
Female adults	889
Children of both sexes under ten years of age	510
Total	3,487

10. The total number of immigrants introduced during the year 1876 was as follows :—

Male adults	261
Female adults	118
Children under ten years of age	44
Total	423

11. The mortality on the voyage amounted to :—

Adults, male	2
„ female	2
Children	1
Total	5

12. The mortality among the immigrants, through acclimatisation, introduced during the year 1875 was, for that year (the first of acclimatisation), May to December, 20·8 per cent.; and among the same for the second year (1876), 12·23 per cent.

13. The mortality among the immigrants, through acclimatisation, introduced during the year 1876, May to December, was 9·9 per cent.; and during the periods 1873-1876, inclusive, the average rate of mortality among arrivals was as follows :—

First year	13 per cent.
Second year	19 „

But an average calculation over a number of years gives no just idea of the mortality caused by the effects of the climate or work; there is neither similarity in the seasons nor in the complements of coolies introduced, nor as regards the work to be done; and no comparison can be drawn between some of the parts where coolies are employed and others. Some are pretty healthy, others are deadly.

14. The mortality of the immigrants, as compared with that of the creole labourers is 9 to 4, or thereabouts.

15. The number of marriages contracted among the Indian population during the year 1876 was 7.

The number of births, 38.

The number of immigrants working at the gold washings during the year was as follows :—

Under first indenture	1,249
„ reindenture	1,087
Without indenture	96
Total	2,432

The number of immigrants working at agricultural estates and other but gold industry was as follows :—

Under first indenture	585
„ reindenture	417
Without indenture	53
Total	1,055

16. Coolies are quite unable to work their twenty-six days per month regularly; both the climate and their own aversion to work are obstacles, and the average labour done is fourteen days per month. The wages earned at the gold-washings by coolies under first indenture are, for the first year, 12 fr. 50 c. per month, and for the next four years 17 fr. 50 c. per month. The wages earned by those at agricultural estates and at ordinary industry are 12 fr. 50 c. for the whole five years of first indenture. Those who re-indenture make their own bargains and are paid according to the work done, or their capability of endurance. Some make 30 fr., others 47 fr. per month of fourteen days. Under these circumstances, a coolie's first indenture for five years, or 1,560 days, cannot expire until he has passed some ten years in the Colony. Very few coolies under re-indenture, or without indenture, apply to me for redress. A coolie, when once he has passed his first indenture, must be perfectly acclimatised, is accustomed to the place and the work, is tolerably acquainted with the Creole language, and is quite able to take care of himself, as regards re-engaging and valuing his own services. Those under first indenture alone require my good offices and protection. The most favourable length of time for which coolies re-indenture is one year.

17. There were 86 complaints brought during the year to the Immigration Office by employers against coolies, and 79 by coolies against employers; being, on part of the employers, for desertion, refusal to work, and insubordination, and, on that of the coolies, for non-payment of salaries, blows, not feeding them, neglect when ill, and general ill-treatment. Two were very serious cases of neglect, in which many coolies lost their limbs, and others died. One was brought before the Law Courts, and penalties suffered; the other, through the incapacity or unwillingness of the then Procureur of the Republic to obtain justice for the coolies, or to the inadequacy of the law, fell through, and nothing, either as punishment of the culpable employers, or indemnification to the wronged, has been done. These two cases were fully reported by me at the time.

18. On the 31st December, 1876, there were 238 immigrants awaiting an opportunity to return to India.

19. No coolies left Cayenne during the year 1876 with free return passage to India.

20. No immigrants have received land in commutation for having renounced their right to free back passages; in fact, that method of dealing with coolies who have served their time has never been seriously carried out; at all events, it has become quite obsolete. Those who have waived their right temporarily have re-indentured, and received a proportionate sum of money, according to the length of time engaged.

21. No means of education are provided for immigrant's children, their moral welfare being entirely overlooked by the Administration and uncared for by their employers.

22. I mentioned in last year's Report that the local Government were about to establish hospitals at the "bourgs" of Mana and Sinnamary. I now have to report that the hospital at Mana has been completed and is in good working order, whilst that at Sinnamary is rapidly progressing. The object in erecting them is principally to receive sick coolies coming down from the placers, thus avoiding for them the killing voyage (with deteriorated health and with actual fever upon them) from those places to Cayenne, in small tapouyé boats for days together on the open sea, on a crowded deck without shelter from the sun and rain day and night. Other invalids may be admitted at these hospitals, but only if it be convenient. The sum of 2 fr. 25 c. is charged per day per coolie, which has to be paid by his employer. According to a resolution comprising twenty-nine Articles relative to the creation of these hospitals by the Governor in Council on the 20th October, 1876, it appears that medical officers of the marine have been appointed to superintend them, and that sisters of charity are attached to them. The Arrêté states the emoluments of the medical officers and the quantities of rations allowed to the sisters and others employed therein; how admission is effected; the price to be paid for invalids; and that indigents may be admitted in exceptional cases, a fifth part of the accommodation being kept vacant for these cases. It states, also, the measures to be taken to recover payment of expenses from employers; and in case of death at the hospitals proper sepulture is provided for. The invalids are boarded, as nearly as possible, according to the tariff of food at the hospitals at Cayenne, and medicines are furnished, as well as beds and other necessary furniture, by the Administration; and every month reports are made by the chief medical officers to the Director of the Interior. These praiseworthy measures are, no doubt, the means of saving the lives of many sick coolies who would otherwise succumb if forwarded, as has hitherto been done, from their working establishments

direct to Cayenne, through all weathers, having no places of refuge at the "bourgs."

23. The Administration, again, with the object of sending coolies to work at agricultural estates in preference to the mines, has again augmented the cost of introduction to be paid by those demanding coolies for the latter places, as follows:—

	Fr. c.
At Gold Washings.	
For every male adult	300 00
" female adult	292 50
" non-adult	277 50
At Ordinary Industry.	
For every male adult	150 00
" female adult	142 50
" non-adult	127 50
At Agricultural Estates.	
For every male adult	100 00
" female adult	92 50
" non-adult	77 50

And, in October last, at my suggestion, the public was warned that, at the allotments of the expected arrivals per "Marie Laure," "Mars," and "Berryer," no employer would be allowed to remove any of his coolies from the depôt until he had satisfied the Administration, under certificate, that the installation of huts, bed-places, &c., for the reception of their labourers, either at agricultural estates, or gold-washings, were properly prepared; and that all requirements, such as provisions, clothing, medicines, &c., were duly made, so that on their arrival they should be in want of nothing that their position demanded.

24. I think it right to mention in this Report, as it passes under the eyes of the Supreme Government of India, the necessity I feel for a special interpreter of capability, to be attached to the coolie Department of the Consulate, who may be intelligent enough to represent me on certain occasions, such as the accompanying, if necessary, the inspectors on their visits to the "placers," or at an inquiry at any of these places, which I often have to demand. This appointment was, I believe, a suggestion, or direct wish, on the part of the Indian Government in the early part of the year 1875, and was communicated to me by the Foreign Office in July of that year, when I was requested to inform Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the amount of salary I considered should be attached to the appointment of an interpreter in the event of a native of India being deputed to the Colony of French Guiana to act in that capacity, to which I duly replied; and, in the month of May last, I received a despatch from the Consular Agent at Karikal informing me that he had been instructed to procure and send to me an interpreter, but as he was not able to find one, he had, instead, recommended to me five among the coolies then embarking on board the "Dunphaile Castle" for Cayenne, fixing the salary himself at 30 rupees a-month, rising every year. In consequence of this letter I chose one of the coolies, and the Governor, in consideration of the special work on which the coolie was to be employed with me, waived all claim to the cost of introduction and directed him to be delivered to me free of all charges for passage; and I have since employed him as my interpreter at that salary, though it is insufficient, as I am obliged partly to maintain him. I replied to the Consular Agent's letter, informing him that I had chosen one of the coolies he had recommended, and requested him to let me know how his salary was to be drawn by me, but I have received no further communication on the subject. This coolie, however, whom I chose *faute de mieux* as interpreter, is of very little use to me, being of low caste and utterly ignorant. What I require is a professional interpreter from India with a knowledge rather of French than English, or if no such can be procured I beg to suggest that I may be authorized to seek for one myself among the free coolies of the Colony. I trust I may be pardoned for introducing anything of a personal nature in this Report, but I should not have done so were an intelligent interpreter not necessary to my carrying on my duties in behalf of Her Majesty's Indian subjects. Emigration to Cayenne is stopped, but it should be borne in mind that there will be, when the last complement from the "Berryer" is landed, nearly 4,500 coolies under my care in the Colony, most of whom are under first indenture and residing at distances where it would be impossible for me to go, and thus absent myself from Cayenne for two months at a time.

25. An opinion appears to be prevalent that the soil is becoming exhausted, or less productive in gold. It is a fact that but few "placers" now pay their way, and those few have been almost exceptional from the beginning. The land has yielded gold now for more than twenty years; but considering the comparatively small space on which this peculiar industry is worked, and the thousands of acres that remain to be prospected; and that new gold-fields in the north of the Colony are discovered, it seems hazardous to make such a declaration. Should it, however, be eventually proved that gold washing is no longer remunerative, since agriculture has been almost entirely abandoned of late years, and that where plantation formerly stood now thrives a vigorous bush and youthful forest, our coolies, on whose behalf only I make these observations, will find themselves in a critical position, with no agricultural work to turn their hands to. It is a noticeable fact, that few coolies are reindentured for more than one year to owners of "placers" now, the reason of which may be the result of calculation and a prudent anticipation that their grants may not, shortly, require labourers at all.

26. In my last year's Report I mentioned a discussion which had taken place in the Chamber of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry, on a motion by one of the members regarding the position of the coolie after his first term of indenture should have expired; and that I had expressed my disapproval of any such proposition being adopted, as I considered it disadvantageous to the coolies in general, who would be immediately liable to the payment of taxes, and would be deprived of the benefit of the good offices of the Immigration Bureau and the Syndicat Protecteur. Besides, not only would the immigration "caisse," but the whole immigration system suffer, and I did not believe such a motion would be carried. In subsequent discussion it was sought to show, by the proposer of the motion and his supporters, that great benefit would accrue to the coolies' position on becoming absolutely free after his first term of service, and occupying the enviable position of a citizen of France. As it is, the coolies are free when once they have passed their term of indenture; but, in order that they may not fall into vagabondage, should there be no immediate opportunity for sending them back to India, they are strongly recommended to reindenture, if only for one year, or for the time that may elapse before an opportunity occurs for leaving the Colony. This motion was disputed in the name of the general interests of the country, and on account of the existence in force of a local Arrêté, promulgated in 1860, modifying former rules which obliged coolies who had finished their five years term of service to repatriate at once, or to accept the bounty and become free labourers. The Arrêté admits the coolie's right to repatriation on finishing his time, allows him to renew his Indian contract for another five years, with an increased salary if he is a good workman, and again to renew it if he feels inclined, and to reserve his right to a free back passage at the end of the second or third contract; and, as an inducement to him to renew his contracts, he is paid down, on signing, a certain sum of money according to the length of time he engages for. This I believe to be in accordance with the policy of the Indian Government which would prefer to see the coolies, already accustoned to the climate and to the country, kept at work (the object for which they left India), in preference to their returning to India, after their first term of indenture had expired, as poor as they came. It is advantageous for the coolies themselves, and for the country, as it allows employers who have retained their coolies during the whole of the first term of indenture and who know thoroughly their work, to re-engage their services, rather than be obliged to replace them by new labourers, with all the attendant risks of acclimatisation. The motion, as I apprehended, was finally rejected, as not only all the benefit of the Arrêté would be lost to the country, but the Convention of July 1861, and various other Decrees and Arrêtés were obstacles to it.

27. In conclusion, I consider the position of the coolie to be improving, mortality is decreasing, and the administration continues to do its best in behalf of the Indian labourers, whilst a steadily increasing consideration is shown for them. A great blow has been received by the Colony by the suppression of immigration to Cayenne; but it was a necessary and righteous act under the circumstances of the climate and the general ill-treatment to which coolies were subjected by certain employers. The administration has not, however, on that account, relaxed any or its efforts, or treated my representations with less attention and courtesy than before.

(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE, *Consul.*

Cayenne, January 11, 1877.

No. 19.

The Marquis d'Harcourt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

M. le Comte, *Londres, le 25 Mai,* 1877.

DANS le courant du mois d'Octobre 1876 le Gouvernement de l'Inde a prescrit la cessation de tout recrutement d'immigrants à destination de la Guyane Française. D'après des correspondances parvenues au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, cette mesure aurait été motivée par la mortalité sévissant sur les coolies Indiens employés dans notre colonie, ainsi que par la situation précaire qui leur serait faite sur les placers. En présence de la décision prise et des motifs qui l'avaient provoquée, le Gouverneur de la Guyane a nommé, vous le savez, M. le Comte, une Commission d'Enquête qui, sous la présidence du Procureur-Général, a été chargée de se rendre compte des circonstances qui ont motivé l'interdiction. La mesure prise par les autorités de l'Inde était d'autant plus inattendue que, de l'initiative même de l'administration locale, des dispositions avaient été prises pour assurer la protection des immigrants, et que deux Commissions allaient simultanément fonctionner en ce sens dans les quartiers les plus importants de notre colonie.

J'ai eu l'occasion, à plusieurs reprises, d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur ces faits, d'insister pour que l'immigration à la Guyane fût autorisée ou que les convois prêts à partir pûssent être embarqués sur le champ.

M. Gavard, de son côté, a entretenu le Foreign Office de la même demande, et en suite de ses réclamations l'affaire paraissait être, il y a un mois, entrée dans une bonne voie et une décision favorable semblait prochaine. Toutefois, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté n'ayant pas cru devoir donner encore à notre réclamation une solution que nous entrevoyions, et les deux convois qui étaient prêts à quitter Pondichéry au moment où la suspension a été prononcée, ayant dû recevoir d'autres destinations, j'ai l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien autoriser deux navires portant 800 à 1,000 émigrants à quitter dès à présent l'Inde à destination de la Guyane. Permettez-moi en outre, M. le Comte, d'insister de nouveau pour que l'immigration Indienne vers notre Colonie soit reprise d'une façon générale, et fonctionne comme par le passé.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D'HARCOURT.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *London, May* 25, 1877.

IN in the course of the month of October, 1876, the Indian Government ordered all recruiting of immigrants for French Guiana to cease. According to the communications which have reached Her Majesty's Government, this measure must have been caused by the heavy mortality among Indian coolies employed in our Colony, as well as by the precarious condition enjoyed by them in the placers.

In view of the decision come to, and the motives which have produced it, the Governor has appointed, as you are aware, M. le Comte, a Commission of Inquiry, which, under the presidence of the Procureur-Général, was charged with the investigation of the circumstances which caused the prohibition in question. The measure adopted by the Indian authorities was all the more unlooked for inasmuch as steps had been taken by the local authorities themselves, at their own suggestion, to ensure the protection of the immigrants, and two Commissions were about to act simultaneously with this object in the most important districts of our Colony.

I have had on several occasions to call your Excellency's attention to these circumstances, and to urge that immigration to Guiana should be sanctioned, or that the batches of coolies now ready to sail should be embarked at once.

M. Gavard, on his part, has discussed the same question with the Foreign Office; and as the result of his arguments the matter appeared a month ago to have entered upon a satisfactory stage, and a favourable decision seemed imminent.

However, as Her Majesty's Government have not thought fit to yield to our arguments the solution which we anticipated, and as the two batches of coolies who were ready to leave Pondichery at the moment that the suspension of immigration was pronounced have been compelled to be sent to other destinations, I have the honour to request your Excellency to have the goodness to sanction the dispatch forthwith to Guiana of two ships carrying from 800 to 1,000 emigrants.

I beg at the same time to urge again, M. le Comte, that Indian immigration to our Colony may be generally renewed, and go on as it used to do.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) D'HARCOURT.

No. 20.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 31, 1877.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne,* inclosing a copy of his Report on the condition of coolies in French Guiana during the year 1876.

I am to request that you will move his Lordship to cause Lord Derby to be informed what instructions should be sent to Mr. Wooldridge in regard to engaging the services of an interpreter from among the free coolies in the Colony.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 21.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1877.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a note which his Lordship has received from the Marquis d'Harcourt,† requesting that permission may be given for the renewal of coolie emigration from India to French Guiana; and I am to request that you will move his Lordship to cause Lord Derby to be informed what answer should be returned to the French Ambassador's application.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 22.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 25th ultimo on the subject of the suspension of coolie immigration to French Guiana, in which your Excellency requests that permission may be given for the immediate departure of two vessels containing from 800 to 1,000 emigrants, and for the renewal of the regular traffic to that Colony.

I beg leave to inform your Excellency in reply that I have referred to your note to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 23.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord, *India Office, July 19, 1877.*

THE Secretary of State for India has had under his consideration in Council the letters of Sir Julian Pauncefote, dated respectively the 11th May last and the 4th ultimo, on the question of a renewal of coolie emigration from India to French Guiana, as requested by the French Government.

* No. 18. † No. 19.

2. In reply, I am directed to request that you will state to the Earl of Derby that Lord Salisbury in Council has, with every desire to meet the wishes of the French Government in this matter, carefully considered the above communications; but, having regard to the accounts of Indian immigration in French Guiana received since the time at which the Government of India decided to suspend the immigration, including the British Consul's Report to the end of last year, inclosed in Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 31st May last, his Lordship in Council regrets to state that he would not feel justified in making a proposal to the Indian Government for the renewal of immigration.

3. At the conclusion of Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of May 11, the concession recently made to the Netherlands Government is mentioned as a precedent in favour of granting the request now preferred by the Government of France.

4. I am desired to observe that the two cases are, however, entirely different. In the first place, the number of emigrants allowed, as an exceptional measure, to proceed to Surinam is limited to 300, while the request of the French Ambassador is that from 800 to 1,000 coolies should be permitted to leave India for Cayenne; and, what is a matter of greater importance, the Secretary of State in Council has every reason to believe that no Indian coolies under indenture in Surinam have been employed in gold diggings, while the Government of India have made it a condition of the further renewal of immigration to that Colony that no Indian now or hereafter located there shall be employed on this description of labour.

5. In French Guiana, on the contrary, the number and proportion of Indians employed on gold washings have increased since the Government of India, in the year 1875, stipulated for a reduction of such number and proportion as a condition of according their sanction to the continuance of immigration to the Colony.

6. The latest reports of the British Consul at Cayenne, it is true, show a considerable diminution of the annual death-rate amongst the Indians, while other improvements have also taken place, and the local administration continue to evince solicitude for the interests of the coolies. But, on the other hand, the mortality amongst Indians for the year 1876 was still so exceptionally high, as not to admit of a renewal of the immigration being proposed to the Indian Government by the Secretary of State for India. It amounted to 7·58 per cent.; and it should be mentioned that in Surinam, for the same period, the death-rate amongst Indians was less than half as high as in French Guiana.

7. Lord Salisbury will, however, I am to add, at once communicate to the Indian Government the letters of Sir Julian Pauncefote under reply, and the note of the French Ambassador, inclosed in the later of these communications, with a request for their immediate and careful consideration of the subject to which they relate, and for an early report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

No. 24.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 1.)

India Office, August 31, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the inclosures in Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 31st May last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to request that you will move the Earl of Derby to convey to Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne the acknowledgments of the Government of India for his Report on the condition of Indian immigrants in French Guiana for the year 1876.

2. The Marquis of Salisbury would be glad that Mr. Wooldridge were at the same time informed that in the opinion of the Government of India it will not be necessary for him in future to send in a Report oftener than once a-year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

No. 25.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Consul Wooldridge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1877.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to convey to you, at the request of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, the thanks of the Government of India for your Report on the condition of Indian immigrants in French Guiana for the year 1876, which was inclosed in your despatch of the 11th April last.

I am at the same time to inform you that in the opinion of the Government of India it will not be necessary for you in future to send in a Report oftener than once a-year.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 26.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *India Office, September* 29, 1877.

WITH reference to my letter of July the 19th last and the previous correspondence therein cited, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward, for submission to the Earl of Derby, copy of a despatch received from the Government of India regarding the suspension of emigration from India to French Guiana.

2. Lord Salisbury would suggest to Lord Derby that the substance of the Indian Government's despatch be communicated to the French Government, with an expression of the regret of Her Majesty's Government at feeling unable to comply with the requests contained in the note of the Marquis d'Harcourt, under date the 25th May last, inclosed in Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 4th June.

3. Adverting to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Indian Government's despatch, and to my letter of August 31, I am desired to transmit a copy of that Government's earlier despatch of the present year, reviewing Mr. Consul Wooldridge's Report on Indian Immigration in French Guiana for 1876. Probably Lord Derby will deem it expedient to communicate to the French Government the contents, or substance, of this despatch also, as showing more fully the grounds on which the Government of India have felt compelled to come to an unfavourable conclusion on the question of a renewal of Indian Emigration to Cayenne.

4. I am further to request, with reference to the closing paragraph of the Indian Government's present despatch, that you will move Lord Derby to obtain, if possible, from the French Government, a copy of any report made by the Commission of inquiry into immigration in French Guiana, mentioned in the French Ambassador's note of May 25 above cited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

The Government of India to the Marquis of Salisbury.

My Lord Marquis, *Simla, August* 27, 1877.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 19th July, transmitting certain correspondence connected with the suspension of emigration from India to French Guiana, and requesting that the subject may be taken into consideration by us in connection with Mr. Wooldridge's Report for 1876.

2. In reply, we beg to refer your Lordship to our despatch dated the 16th July last,* in which we reviewed the report for 1876, and stated our opinion (paragraph 5) that the facts therein set forth were not sufficient to warrant a reconsideration of the orders by which emigration to Cayenne is at present suspended. We are gratified to learn from Sir Louis Mallet's letter to the Foreign Office of the 19th July, inclosed in

* Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

the despatch now acknowledged, that the same conclusion had been independently arrived at by your Lordship on a perusal of Mr. Wooldridge's Report.

3. Nothing appears to be contained in the papers now forwarded which should lead us to change our opinion. We have throughout given the Colonial authorities credit for their praiseworthy exertions in behalf of the immigrant population; but our objections to permit the continuance of the emigration are founded on the proved unfitness of the colony for the residence of Indian labourers,—an unfitness which it seems impossible to expect can within any reasonable time cease to exist. It was only to be anticipated that the labourers now in the colony should show an annually decreasing rate of mortality; but if the new importations of each year be looked to, it will be seen that the risks of acclimatisation are excessive, and do not, according to the latest information at our disposal, show any signs of notably decreasing. We do not think that, in order to furnish the colony wiih a supply of acclimatised labour, we should be justified in permitting coolies to be shipped from India, of whom not less than one-fourth may be expected to succumb during the first eighteen months of their residence in Cayenne.

4. We shall be glad to receive a copy of the report of the Commission of Inquiry referred to in the Comte d'Harcourt's letter to Lord Derby of the 25th May.

We have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY.
F. P. HAINES.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Marquis of Salisbury.

My Lord Marquis, *Simla, July 16, 1877.*

IN continuation of our despatch dated the 28th September, 1876,* with which we forwarded copy of the Consul's report on the condition of Indian immigrants in French Guiana in 1875, and announced the suspension of emigration to that Colony, we have now the honour to forward copy of Mr. Wooldridge's Annual Report for 1876.†

2. The number of immigrants in the Colony on the 31st December, 1875, was stated in the report for that year to be 3,309, viz.:—

	No.
Male adults	2,035
Female adults	822
Children under 10	452
Total	3,309

3. The number of births during the following year, 1876, is in one place of the enclosed report (page 3), stated to have been 38, but on page 1 the same number is given as that of the births in the second half of the year only; the number of immigrants introduced during the year was 423. The total of the immigrant population during the year was thus (subject to the discrepancy as to births)—

	No.
Male adults	2,296
Female adults	940
Children	534
Total	3,770

4. On the 31st December, 1876, these numbers stood as follows:—

	No.
Male adults	2,088
Female adults	889
Children	510
Total	3,487

* Inclosure in No. 4. † Inclosure in No. 18.

showing a decrease of 208, 51, and 24, under each class respectively, and a total decrease of 283. The death-rate was therefore among :—

	Per cent.
Male adults	9·06
Female adults	5 42
Children	4·49
The total immigrant population	7·507

These figures do not quite agree with Mr. Wooldridge's calculation, which gives 7·58 as the per centage of total deaths; the difference is possibly due to some unrecorded births of children (who afterwards died) in the first half of the year. From the Report for 1875, it will be seen that the rate for that year was 12 15 per cent.; the rate for 1876 is therefore better by 4 54. This is a considerable improvement, but the rate is still higher than that which, under the Inland Emigration Act,* warrants the closure of an estate to imported labourers.

5. The 423 coolies who arrived during the year, landed on the 12th May; in the seven-and-a-half months which remained of the year, they lost 42 of their number, or a fraction under 10 per cent. In 1875, 351 immigrants who landed in May, lost 73 of their number before the end of December, or 20·8 per cent. Of the survivors it is said that 12·23 per cent. died during 1876. These figures show that the risks of acclimatisation in Cayenne are still extremely great; and Mr. Wooldridge gives as the average mortality during that process for the four years ending 1876, the following proportions :—

Deaths during the first year of acclimatisation	13 per cent.
„ „ second „ „	19 „

We are of opinion that neither the improvement in the general mortality among the immigrant population, nor that in the mortality among immigrants imported during the year, is sufficient to justify a reconsideration of the orders passed last year, by which emigration to Cayenne is at present suspended.

6. Turning now to the statistics furnished by the report regarding labour and wages, your Lordship will perceive that, including children, the immigrants are distributed between the gold-washings and other (chiefly agricultural) industries, as follows :—

On "placers"	2,432,	or 69·74 per cent.
On other labour..	1,055	„ 30·26 „
Total	3,487	

In 1875 the proportions were almost exactly the same:—

On "placers"	2,307,	or 69·72 per cent.
On other labour..	1,002	„ 30·28 „
Total	3,309	

The most noteworthy point in regard to labour, is that the coolies are stated to be unable to work on an average more than half the month, or fourteen instead of twenty-six days; consequently the five years' indenture is not worked out until ten years have expired from the date of introduction.

7. Of the 3,487 coolies at work, 1,934 are under their first indenture, and earn, if employed on agricultural labour, 12·50 fr. a month, besides rations, &c., for the whole of their term; if on gold-washings, 12·50 fr. a month for their first year, and 17·50 fr. for the next four. This increase in the wages for labour on gold-washings, is apparently a new feature. Of the remaining coolies, 1,504 are under re-indenture, and these are able to earn considerably higher wages, averaging from 30 to 45 francs per month of fourteen days.

8. It is noticeable that the administration, in order to discourage applications for immigrants for the gold-washings, have still further raised the charges to be paid by the applicant; in 1875 these were 250 fr. per male adult compared with 150 fr. when the labour is required for agriculture; in 1876 the charge was 300 fr. for the gold-washings, 100 fr. for agriculture, and 150 fr. for other labour.

9. Another satisfactory point is that, though there is no mention in the report of any placer or estate being deprived of any labourers previously employed on it in consequence of its unhealthiness or want of proper provision for the comfort of the coolies, the administration in October last warned all applicants for the new immigrants

* Act No. VII of 1873 (B. C.), section 119.

expected to arrive in the three ships due last spring, that they would not be allowed to remove their immigrants until they had satisfied the authorities that all things required by law had been provided on the placer or estate.

10. The two serious cases of neglect referred to on page 4, were presumably those in which the MM. de Georgis and the MM. Vitalo Frères were concerned; the former, however, occurred in 1875, though the proceedings in connection with it were protracted to the middle of 1876.

11. The reference to an interpreter on pages 5 and 6 of the report, relates to a question which has, it is hoped, since been satisfactorily settled. In connection with this subject, we beg to refer your Lordship to our despatch of the 17th May last.

12. We notice with gratification the last paragraph of Mr. Wooldridge's report, in which he makes mention of the priseworthy manner in which the Administration of the Colony continues to exert itself on behalf of the immigrants.

We would request that our thanks may be conveyed to Mr. Wooldridge for his report, and that he may be informed that the report for the first half of 1876 has not been received by us. In connection with this subject, we would suggest that instead of two half-yearly reports, one report for the whole year might in future be furnished.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.

No. 27.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1877.

IN my letters of the 11th May and the 4th June I had the honour to inform your Excellency that I had communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India your notes of the 3rd and 25th May, on the subject of the suspension of the emigration of coolies from India to French Guiana. I have now to acquaint your Excellency that Lord Salisbury lost no time in addressing the Indian Government on the subject, and that his Lordship has furnished me with the reply which he has received from that Government.

The Indian Government call his Lordship's attention to the following facts set forth in the Report of Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne, on the condition of Indian immigrants in French Guiana in 1876.

The number of these immigrants in the Colony on the 31st December, 1875, was 3,309, viz.:—

Male adults	2,035
Female adults	822
Children under ten	452
Total	3,309

The number introduced during the year 1876 was 423, and the total immigrant population during the year, including 38 births, was as follows:—

Male adults	2,296
Female adults	940
Children	534
Total	3,770

On the 31st December, 1876, the numbers stood as follows:—

Male adults	2,088
Female adults	889
Children	510
Total	3,487

Showing a decrease of 208, 51, and 24, under each class respectively, and a total decrease of 283. The death-rate was, therefore, among

	Per cent.
Male adults	9·06
Female adults	5·42
Children	4·49
The total immigrant population	7·507

The death-rate for the year 1875 was 12·15 per cent., and the rate for 1876 is therefore better by 4·54, and although this is a considerable improvement, it is still higher than that which, under the Inland Emigration Act, warrants the closure of an estate to imported labourers.

The 423 coolies who arrived during the year landed on the 12th May; and in the seven months and a half which remained of the year they lost 42 of their number, or a fraction under 10 per cent. In 1875, 351 immigrants, who landed in May, lost 73 of their number before the end of December, or 20·8 per cent. Of the survivors it is said that 12·23 per cent. died during 1876. These figures show that the risks of acclimatization in Cayenne are still extremely great, and that the average mortality during that process for the four years ending 1876 was as follows:—

	Per cent.
Deaths during the first year of acclimatization	13
Ditto, during the second year	19

It is moreover stated that the coolies are unable to work on an average more than half the month, or fourteen instead of twenty-six days; consequently the five years' indenture is not worked out until ten years have expired from the date of introduction.

Under these circumstances the Indian Government are of opinion that neither the improvement in the general mortality among the immigrant population, nor that in the mortality among immigrants imported during the year 1876, is sufficient to justify a reconsideration of the orders passed last year, by which immigration to Cayenne is at present suspended.

They state that they have throughout given the Cayenne authorities credit for their praiseworthy exertions in behalf of the immigrant population; but that their objections to permit the continuance of the immigration are founded on the proved unfitness of the colony for the residence of Indian labourers—an unfitness which it seems impossible to expect can, within any reasonable time, cease to exist. It was only to be anticipated that the labourers now in the colony should show an annually decreasing rate of mortality; but if the new importations of each year be looked to, it will be seen that the risks of acclimatization are excessive. and do not, according to the latest information at the disposal of the Indian Government, show any signs of notably decreasing. They do not think that they would be justified in permitting coolies to be shipped from India, of whom not less than one-fourth may be expected to succumb during the first eighteen months of their residence in Cayenne.

With regard to the request contained in your Excellency's letter of the 25th May, that permission might be given for the immediate departure of two vessels containing from 800 to 1,000 immigrants for Cayenne, and to the remark made by M. Gavard in a conversation with Sir J. Pauncefote, that such a concession had recently been made to the Netherlands Government, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India has requested me to point out to your Excellency that the two cases are entirely different.

In the first place the number of immigrants allowed, as an exceptional measure, to proceed to Surinam was limited to 300 and, what is a matter of greater importance, the Secretary of State has every reason to believe that no Indian coolies under indenture in Surinam have been employed in gold diggings, while the Government of India have made it a condition of the further renewal of emigration to that colony, that no Indian now or hereafter located there shall be employed on this description of labour.

In French Giuana, on the contrary, the number and proportion of Indians employed on gold washings have increased since the Government of India, in the year 1875, stipulated for a reduction of such numbers and proportion as a condition of according their sanction to the continuance of immigration to the colony, the number so employed being, in 1875, 2,307, and in 1876, 2,432.

In communicating this information to your Excellency, I beg to add the expression of the regret which Her Majesty's Government feel in being unable to comply with the request contained in your notes of the 3rd and 25th May.

I have the honour to add that Her Majesty's Government would be very glad if

your Excellency could furnish them with a copy of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into immigration in French Guiana, to which reference is made in your Excellency's note of the 25th May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 28.

Consul Wooldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Cayenne, September* 20, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my half-yearly report on the mortality of Indian immigrants in French Guiana for the six months ended the 30th June, 1877, a copy of which I have transmitted direct to the Indian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Report on the Mortality of Indian Immigrants in French Guiana during the First Half of the Year 1877.

THE return of deaths, just sent in to me from the Immigration Department, among the immigrants in French Guiana during the first half of the present year, shows a larger per-centage than occurred during either of the first and second halves of 1876, but it cannot be considered high in comparison, seeing that three emigrant vessels arrived at the beginning of the year, and landed a complement of 1,141 labourers at a time when yellow fever was prevalent, and the standard health of the Colony unusually low. I very much fear, however, that the next report at the end of the year will show even a greater death-rate than this one does, as the greatest heat prevails between the months of August and December, and the season of this year is exceptionally hot; still, as the whole of the coolies were landed before the end of February, it is to be hoped that the four or five months through which they passed will have, in a measure, prepared them to resist the evil effects of the tropical summer.

The following Table gives the rate of mortality between the 1st January and the 30th June, 1877:—

	No.
Population on the 1st January, 1877	3,487
Coolies introduced in the months of January and February	1,141
Births during first half of 1877	21
Total	4,649
Deaths during first half of 1877	192
Death-rate per cent.	4·13

Of these, 170 were adults and 22 non-adults; 137 being males, and 55 females.

In analyzing the total number of deaths, I find that:—

63 occurred among arrivals in	1877
29 among arrivals in	1876
6 ,, ,, ...	1875
34 ,, ,, ...	1874
14 ,, ,, ...	1873
7 ,, ,, ...	1872
29 among the old coolies, or those who arrived at Cayenne before the suspension of emigration in	1867
10 among those born in the Colony.	
192	

At the different quarters of the Colony, the mortality is divided as follows:—

* Communicated to India Office, October 29.

	No. of deaths.
At Cayenne (the town only)	83
On the rest of the island	20
At Appronague, Oyapock, and Kaw (windward quarters)	21
At Mana, Sinnamary, Kourou, and Iracoubo (leeward quarters)	56
At Roura, Montsinéry, and Macouria (central quarters)	12
Total	192

The death-rate per cent. during the first half of 1876 was	3·75
" " " 1877	4·13
Difference in favour of 1876	0·38
The death-rate per cent. during the second half of 1876 was	3·96
" " first half of 1877 was	4·13
Difference in favour of 1876	0·17

Notwithstanding the undeniable pains taken by the Administration in behalf of the coolies, and the care bestowed upon them, of the visits of the inspectors as often as the paucity of the service will permit, and the constant recommendation of the coolies to the authorities residing at the quarters, the death-rate, if not increased, for reasons given above, has not tended in any way to a diminution. This is disappointing, and shows that all the efforts of the local authorities to ameliorate the condition of the coolies, and to bring them within reach of medical aid more speedily than before by the establishment of hospitals at two of the most populous quarters near the coast, have, as yet, proved of no avail, and that the Administration is powerless to render the coolies' position a safe one in this climate in point of health, or a satisfactory one as justice demands. For complaints of beating, stopping of wages, improper feeding, and others, although attended to by the authorities, are ever recurring at the Consulate. Many of these complaints are satisfactorily settled, and the coolie departs for his placer, or estate, justice having been rendered him and his salary paid up, but only to reappear a few months later with a similar complaint. Over eighty complaints passed through my office during the first half of 1877; some of the most serious ones were decided by the law, and I invariably remarked that most of the coolies' complaints were declared to be unfounded.

The cause of the heavy death-rate at Cayenne has been given in former reports, for Cayenne is the healthiest spot in the Colony; or, to be more correct, the least unhealthy of the quarters.

During these six months 54 transfers took place from one employer to another, and 17 re-engagements sanctioned by the Immigration Office for the following periods:—

For 5 years	6
" 3 "	2
" 2 "	4
" 1 "	5
Total	17

In order to keep certain employers of immigrants up to the mark as regards their dealings with their labourers, and to record any abuses against them for future reference in case of serious complaints, the Administration has declared its intention to publish the reports of the Commission of Inspectors on their return from visiting the gold and agricultural establishments in the interior; an abridgment of their last inspections of the quarters of Roura, Ile de Cayenne, and Tour de l'Ile, I herewith give.

The Inspectors returned on the 20th May, and showed results generally satisfactory. At the Ile de Cayenne and Tour de l'Ile quarters, they visited 34 plantations, employing a total of 630 immigrants; and at Roura, six gold-washing establishments and one plantation where there are 466 immigrants. They reported that "the situation of the immigrants tends every day towards an improvement, and leaves little to be desired except in very rare and exceptional cases. Divers establishments, which had formerly been the objects of merited reproach, were now being well conducted. The sanitary state is satisfactory, and the number of deaths has been, relatively, much reduced since the 31st March, notwithstanding recent and numerous introductions."

Many placers and plantations have been particularly the objects of praise by the

Commission on account of the excellent manner in which they are conducted, and the care bestowed on the labourers, among which, one placer at Roura, "Boulanger," and one plantation, "Remire," on the island are specially mentioned, and declared to be in a "perfect state." The report further says:—"There are still certain plantations whose state is defective among the smaller ones, but they are, happily, rare," and the Administration adds, that "it is taking strong measures to put a stop to an objectionable state of things, and trusts shortly that it will have nothing but praises to address to all the employers of coolies for the manner in which they fulfil their obligations towards them."

These are among the pleasantest quarters of the colony, and within easy reach of the town of Cayenne. It is to be hoped that similar reports may be forthcoming after visiting the more distant quarters.

Regarding the hospitals at Mana and Sinnamary, for the use of the coolies at the placers in the interior of those quarters, the Director of the Interior, at my request, in a letter dated May 28, 1877, informed me that the hospice at Mana had received, from the 18th August, 1876, to the 24th February, 1877, 134 sick people, of whom 71 were coolies; that 62 of the coolies had been discharged cured and resumed work, whilst nine had died. "Ces chiffres," writes the director, "démontrent d'une manière évidente que, dès le début, la création dont il s'agit, a produit les résultats favorables que l'Administration s'était plu d'espérer." As for the Sinnamary hospice, it is not yet finished, "par suite de circonstances de force majeure;" one of the wards, however, is ready, and has received its beds, &c., and a second is nearly so. A medical man superintends each hospital, and a certain number of Sisters of Charity, who were expressly asked for from France, as nurses. The Director finishes his letter thus: "Toutes les mesures, M. le Consul, sont prises par l'Administration pour assurer aux immigrants la meilleure situation possible."

An article, entitled "Les Coolies de la Guyanne," in the "Revue Scientifique" of July 1877, gives an excellent *exposé* of the treatment of the coolies on two placers of French Guiana, by a medical man employed at the gold establishment at Mataroni, on the Appronague, and the results of an original system of treatment of his own. Doctor François went to this establishment in January 1875, and remained there for two years, and he shows very clearly that, were medical men to be attached to the placers, and followed the system he adopted as regards the treatment, morally and physically, of the labourers, not only would the mortality among them sensibly decrease, but, as a natural consequence, the material interests of the proprietors would be better guaranteed, and the situation, in every way, be improved. I am intimately acquainted with Doctor François, and have several times listened to the relation of his experiences at the Mataroni mines, and can therefore vouch for the correctness of the review, and cordially sympathise with the efforts of the doctor, and recommend the reforms proposed and adopted by him.

In Part I of the Article, the result of a careful study of the doctor's diary and other documents, the reviewer enlarges upon the difficulties to be encountered and overcome during the voyage between Cayenne and the placers, and upon their geological and climatological position, and I think a free translation of the whole article will not be out of place here:—

"These placers are situated on the River Appronague, at a considerable distance from its mouth, and it requires about eight days to reach them, which no doubt appear as many centuries to the unfortunate human cattle, whilst being transported to Cayenne in the last stage of disease. The first part of the journey is made in a flat-bottomed craft, called a 'taponyé,' whose deck is continually being whipped by the spray of the waves, and exposed to the heavy floods and burning rays of the sun, whilst the wind and current drive the badly managed bark on to hidden sandbanks, where it remains until released by the flowing tide.

"Imagine a voyage in one of these 'taponyés' of about twenty tons burthen, crowded with coolies packed close and piled up on the deck, without seats to sit or lie upon, without bulwarks to lean against or awning to protect one from the sun and rain, almost inundated by the waters, and always badly and sometimes not fed at all. If the clumsy craft advances at all, it must be with both wind and current in its favour, for with its square bows it cannot stem the tide, but recoils, and the anchor must be dropped. Thus many days are taken up in traversing the fifty miles which separate Cayenne from the Appronague.

"On entering the Appronague you pass the little îlet de Guisambourg, the miserable residence of a few Government agents, when the navigation becomes easier and the water smoother, but the musquitoes and other pests of the country allow the

passengers no sort of rest. The eye falls upon plains of mangrove jungle on all sides, backed by bluish, monotonous hills. On the banks a few abandoned plantations, and some miserable cabins, or 'carbets,' belonging to the natives, meet the eye. At length you arrive at the agency of the society and disembark, and the first, but least tiresome, part of the journey is over.

"The second part of the journey is made in 'piroques' (canoes) manned by undisciplined crews of negroes, who work when they please, stop near the banks at their pleasure, and care nothing for the convenience of the passengers, who, stowed as well as they can manage upon the piles of provisions, have to submit to their insolence and laziness, and endure, with much suffering, the ardour of the torrid sun, the floods, and the myriads of stinging insects, from which there is no possible escape. The journey is broken by the rapids, which become more frequent as you ascend, when the boats have to be unloaded and dragged along the banks above the fall, and re-launched. Danger is often incurred in descending these falls, some of which are capable of being passed over, and canoes are capsized through the recklessness or want of nerve of the 'pagageurs.' The country viewed from the middle of the stream is picturesque and peaceful, being a gentle incline covered with wonderful vegetation, every hillock and clump of trees showing some fantastic form, resembling, in their clothing of leaves, the remains of antiquated towers covered with ivy. At length you reach the confines of the placers and disembark, and proceed on foot to the central establishment of the Society, and the remembrance of the picturesque scenery you have passed through on the river is soon obliterated from your mind, and all your attention and efforts are directed towards the change of position from water to land, and every care is needed as you slide and flounder through the greasy clay of the footpath over which you pass, at each moment interrupted by obstacles, such as fallen trunks of trees, huge stones, protruding roots, ditches, and quagmires, which, if you cannot jump, you wade through, sinking to the middle in mud. These are slight trials to the hardy traveller in health, seeking adventures, or on a hunting expedition, but they are torments to the poor sick coolies who are being carried in hammocks from the placer to the river-side *en route* for Cayenne, for, in spite of precautions and careful stepping, it often happens that one or two of the bearers slip or stumble, and the poor invalid, to whom the least jerk is agony indescribable, is precipitated down a sliding into a ditch or on to a heap of stones."

Part II treats of the condition of coolies sent to the placers, and the causes of the abnormal mortality among them.

"So much for the country. Let us now examine the conditions of the individuals employed at the placers. They come, mostly, from the environs of Madras and from Calcutta, regions analogous to French Guiana, and yet, each time a 'convoi' of coolies arrives at Guiana, nearly a third of it dies off in the first eight months.

"To what attribute such frightful ravages, which are not, certainly, due to either change of climate or to inferior hygienic conditions? Dr. François gives an interesting explanation of this problem, which appears a just one, in attributing the mortality to two causes, the one purely physical, and the other moral. The first of these causes is that the coolie, whose labour is exclusively confined to gold digging and agriculture, is exposed, not only to the fatigue of work to which he has never been accustomed, but to the dangerous miasmas arising from the undrained land on which he lives and breathes; and, as the immigrants are not, in general, of a robust constitution, and among them are found ruined lawyers and schoolmasters, beggars, and worn out prostitutes, it is not to be wondered at that fatigue and fever make short work of them.

"As for the moral influence, its action on these debased races, incapable of energy and reaction, is not less considerable. On their arrival at the placers, the coolies, finding themselves deceived by false promises, and caught in an abominable trap whence there is no escape, become resentful and discouraged. Some make the best of their position, go cheerfully to work, struggle, resist, and finally escape the evil consequences of the climate. Others, acting according to their own inclinations, desert the placers, and roam the forest, until hunger compels them to return and capitulate. But all have not recourse to such simple expedients; many of these unfortunate beings, whose contempt for pain and death is inconceivable, in order to escape work, make use of most painful and unheard of means to incapacitate themselves. Some hang themselves, while their bodies recline at full length on the earth, the neck tied to a low branch of a tree, which only raises the head a few inches from the ground, such is their persevering obstinacy and doggedness. Others, by far the

largest number, mutilate themselves by a very common practice, which consists in tearing off a piece of skin from the shin or foot, and applying to the raw flesh for some hours a copper coin soaked in salt water, whilst the part is irritated and kept raw by a piece of stick or nail. They then pass the night in the forest, and allow the sore to be overrun by vermin, and in the morning it presents a hideous wound. Another way is that of blinding themselves by introducing under the eyelids a paste composed of lime and certain irritating ingredients found in the woods, which soon produces a purulent ophthalmia, with all its attendant consequences. No matter what he suffers, the coolie has attained his object, he is 'hors de service.'

"Many fall ill from natural causes; their apathy is then increased, their comrades abandon them, the nurses take advantage of their state and rob them, they drink to appease the fever that consumes them, which only increases it, they eat anything they can lay their hands upon; dysentery and diarrhœa soon come to put an end to their sufferings.

"Against these terrible calamities what remedies existed at the Society's establishment before the arrival of the doctor in January 1875?

"The *personnel* of the Company was composed of thirty white men, four male hospital attendants, and about 320 coolies, who worked on two placers, distant from the central establishment, one 9 kilometres, and the other 12.

"Two of the hospital attendants were employed, one at each of the placers, whilst the other two were retained at the central establishment, where there was a hospital containing about twenty beds, which were always occupied. Those coolies who had become seriously ill at the placers were sent up to the central hospital, and if they became worse were transferred, in the way we have described, to Cayenne, which place their state of health rarely allowed them to reach. Many died even at the central hospital, which was but a mere open shed, for want of the most ordinary care.

"The attendants, having no knowledge of medicine or how to treat sick people, used for all kinds of diseases certain Creole remedies, which were efficacious only in their own minds. Had they even made up for their inexperience and incapacity by a little zeal and disinterestedness in their duties, much misery and suffering might have been spared the coolies and some lives saved; but, attracted to the placers by a love of gain, they made a market of the coolies, cheated them by selling them, at exorbitant prices, trumpery articles of no value, and speculated even on the sick, by promising them speedy cures or not of their ailments, according as the fee was great or small, and then abandoned them remorselessly. They never washed their wounds, and the same linen, if they had any, was used indiscriminately for all purposes. For dressing wounds or sores they poured over them a decoction of copahu, of camphorated rum, or an infusion of some country bark cut off with a "sabre d'abatés," so that on his first visit the doctor found more than a hundred sick coolies laid up with hideous sores, the most part being infected with worms, crawling in and out, and some by a blue rot (pourriture violacée) requiring some twenty amputations, which would not, however, have saved their lives."

"Figures," writes the reviewer epigrammatically, "will be more eloquent than the most graphic description. Out of 474 coolies (complement of 'Leicester') sent to these placers in March 1874, more than 300 were dead in one year, or a death-rate of 63 per cent., and yet Mataroni is considered the best conducted establishment in French Guiana."

Note.—The returns of deaths of "Leicester's" complement at Mataroni, furnished me by the Department, show that in—

	Deaths.
1874 (March to December) there were	162
1875	89
1876	12
Total	263

Part III speaks of the measures taken by the doctor to arrest the diseases by which the coolies were attacked, and to relieve them of the sores on their bodies, to prevent them from aggravating them, to cause to be avoided as much as possible the excessive fatigue of transport of the sick to Cayenne, to assure to them all the care the state of their health required as far as lay in his power, to overlook the attendants, and to put a stop to their disgraceful proceedings with the coolies. To this end "he occupied himself in raising the 'moral' of the labourers, in diminishing the fatigues

of their work without prejudice to their employers, by confiding each newly arrived coolie to an old hand, so as to initiate him into the ways of his work and accustom him to the *régime*. Two hospitals were being constructed on his arrival. He hastened on the work until they were completed, and devoted one to the men and the other to the women, and by constant visits to these hospitals he assured himself that his prescriptions were attended to, that the sick were not neglected, and that his sanitary orders were carried out. He increased and changed the quality of dressings, used largely antiseptics, and had frequent recourse to hot iron, which had the immense advantage of being inexhaustible. In a word, knowing that sanitary precautions and instant care were the principal conditions of success, he applied himself personally to the work and made his assistants follow his example.

"The results which attended this treatment were not long in showing themselves, as will be seen by the following comparative return of mortality in the first half year of 1875, and the second half year of 1876:—

First half of 1875.		Second half of 1876.	
Months.	Number of deaths.	Months.	Number of deaths.
January	28	July	0
February	24	August	2
March	22	September	0
April	13	October	3
May	11	November	1
June	5	December	4
Total	103	Total	10

"No comment is necessary on the above.

"The number of deaths among the women had been, relatively, considerable; the doctor, however, observed that women resist longer than the men, generally for the reason that they ally themselves to men who give the surest guarantees for their future comfort and protection, who are better paid and more experienced than the new-comers, and being strong and acclimatised are gallant enough to take the greater part of their work off their hands. Thus the women are better able to resist the climate, and the old hands manage to monopolise all the new women. *En revanche*, nearly the whole of the children die, and many of them are killed by their mothers.

Part IV. "After reading the forgoing who will dispute that the laws of humanity imperiously demand reforms and the entire reorganization of the placers? Efficacious steps have been taken by one Company, but there are many other placers whose condition is infinitely inferior to what Mataroni was in 1874. The question is more general than it seems, and should be treated seriously. According to statistics furnished by the doctor, the pecuniary interests of the proprietors are at stake, and the reforms proposed, instead of demanding sacrifices, will bring profits sufficient to cover all first expenses. See following table. The labourers alone are counted as existing; children and women in the family-way are not included.

First half of 1875.					Second half of 1876.				
Months, 1875.	Number existing.	Actual Labour.	Working Days.	Days in Hospital.	Months, 1876.	Number existing.	Actual Labour.	Working Days.	Days in Hospital.
January ..	380	266	4,582	6,638	July ..	262	253	5,293	2,502
February ..	372	255	4,016	4,384	August ..	262	249	5,186	1,888
March ..	350	243	4,728	4,235	September ..	269	263	5,140	1,998
April ..	334	230	4,209	3,411	October ..	250	242	4,888	2,164
May ..	327	254	4,740	4,027	November ..	249	240	5,112	2,133
June ..	342	254	4,577	3,907	December ..	249	243	5,050	1,422
Total ..	2,105	1,502	26,852	26,602	Total ..	1,541	1,490	30,669	12,107

"Thus, in the first half of 1875, 2,105 existing workmen only gave an effective of 1,502, and only furnished 26,852 working days, or per man 12·77 days; whilst in the second half of 1876, 1,541 workmen gave an effective of 1,490 labourers, and

30,669 days of work, or per man 19·90 days. We see, on the other hand, that the Company has had to pay for maintaining these labourers for 53,454 days (total of hospital and working days) during the first half of 1875 (the doctor valuing the charge per day at 1·50 francs) 80,181 fr. for 26,852 working days, or 2·98 fr. per man. In the second half of 1876, the cost of 41,776 days of maintenance and pay amounted to 52,664 fr. for 30,669 working days, or 2·06 fr. per man; and taking the approximate average figure of 30,000 days of labour per six months, it is clearly seen that the Company will spend, at the price per day as shown in the first half of 1875, 164,000 fr. for the maintenance and pay of the workmen for one year, and at the price as shown in the second half of 1876 only 123,600 fr. which shows an economy of 40,400 fr.

"As for the expenses of a medical man, they amount to 20,000 fr. per annum, and 5,000 fr. for table, besides the expenses for medicines, &c., and the pay of the attendants in the hospital is no considerable sum;* and the doctor affirms that these expenses are, for the most part, exceeded by those for transport of coolies to Cayenne and medical care at the hospital there.

"We have shown that the reforms would be far from being injurious to the material interests of the owners of coolies. In the short space of two years they have produced most satisfactory results. How much more favourable when they have been a long time in force, and when they work without obstacles and with the improvements suggested by experience? The labourers well treated, and lifted out of their apathetic discouragement by a physical and moral hygiene wisely extended, will devote themselves to their labours with more zeal, and will no longer think of deserting or shirking work. The diminution in the mortality would allow the necessity for the introduction of new complements to become rarer every year, which, less experienced than the old hands in the secret of 'exploitation,' furnish an inferior and therefore less productive work, without speaking of the decimation through acclimatisation, and that alone calls for a reform, being recommended in the name of humanity, which, after the abolition of the Slave Trade, should no longer support the barbarous and inhuman treatment of which the coolies are the victims. Now is the time to impose upon proprietors of coolie labour the indispensable steps which they have not yet spontaneously adopted, and we hope, ere long, that the Government will insist upon the presence of a surgeon at every establishment employing coolies whose number is considerable, the same as is exacted on board vessels carrying more than twenty men."

If any system promises success, or can make it possible for Indian coolies to work and live in French Guiana, the above appears to be the most likely. It has the advantage of having been tried, and the results are shown. I have despaired of finding a solution to the problem—how to make immigration succeed in French Guiana—always having been doubtful that the residence of medical men (even if they could be procured) at each of the establishments, with all the care at their command to bestow, would be able to stay the destruction of life among the immigrants in this climate. There is no reason to doubt, however, that with the means adopted by Doctor François, the lives of Indian coolies might be as easily preserved in French Guiana as in their native country, and before emigration to Cayenne be again permitted, it is strongly to be recommended that the Indian Government insist upon the employment of resident surgeons at all the establishments, gold-washing and agriculture alike, where a fixed number of immigrants are employed. The system of visits of the inspectors and medical men who accompany them, visits rarely made twice in one year to the same establishment, is a farce as it at present exists. The inspectors have little power, and are regarded as a nuisance by most of the proprietors and managers who are not their personal friends, and the visits being repeated only after a long lapse of time, can be no guarantee for the good working of the estate or placer.

As the doctor's system has succeeded at the Appronague, there is no reason why it should not succeed elsewhere, for Appronague is one of the most unhealthy quarters in the Colony. The method of putting an entire stop to the transport of sick coolies cannot be too much urged and upheld; and the doctor has shown that the conveyance to Cayenne and stay in hospital (if they reach Cayenne alive) for weeks and months at the expense of the proprietor, is even more costly than keeping a paid surgeon at the estate which is able to employ between twenty and thirty coolies.

Article 31 of the Immigration Act, which says, "Every plantation and every placer

* *Sic in orig.*

having twenty immigrants, at least, should be provided with an infirmary well established and provisioned;" and, "in case of slight illness the immigrants shall be taken care of by their employers, and, in case of serious illness, shall be sent to Cayenne, to be placed and treated at the hospitals, unless the proprietor is able to show that he employs a surgeon," is but a dead letter, and gives a dangerous margin to the employer. To leave the care of sick immigrants to employers and managers, especially at establishments which are not flourishing, who look to the expenditure of every sou, or to avaricious attendants, is, as Doctor François has shown to insure the neglect of the immigration rules, and to bring many coolies to the grave where otherwise they might be saved, for employers can easily evade sending them to Cayenne by declaring that they subscribe to a medical men. We now know what is necessary to the safety of the immigrants who come here to labour, and before emigration be renewed for the third time, such conditions, even to the altering of the immigration laws, as will insure to them proper care and just treatment (for hitherto they have, in general, been criminally and shockingly dealt with) in the desolate and unhealthy places they are obliged to live in for months together, should be imposed, and, if accepted, guarantees be given for their being honestly carried out to the satisfaction of the resident Consul.

(Signed) FRANK WOOLDRIDGE, *Consul.*

Cayenne, September 20, 1877.

No. 29.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 15.)

My Lord, *India Office, December* 12, 1877.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's letter of the 29th of October, transmitting the Report of Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne,* on the mortality of Indian immigrants in French Guiana during the first half of the current year.

In returning, as requested, Mr. Wooldridge's Report, I am desired to state that the Marquis of Salisbury has read it with painful interest. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Colonial Administration for the welfare of the coolies, the Colony still appears, on account of its climate, to be very fatal to the Indian population; and, until some diminution of this mortality can be obtained, by the supply of a sufficient number of medical men, and by the provision of hospitals on every plantation and placer where a fixed number of immigrants is employed, the Government of India will be unable to permit the resumption of the emigration from that country. With regard to this matter, the Consul draws attention to the stipulations of Article 31 of the Immigration Act, but he adds that the Article is a dead letter.

The paper in the "Revue Scientifique," entitled "Les Coolies de la Guyanne" (a translation of which is embodied in the Consul's Report) gives a sad description of the condition and treatment of the immigrants, and Lord Salisbury trusts that the attention of the Commission of Inquiry, adverted to in my letter of the 29th September last, will have been drawn to this Article, and that the Commission will be able to suggest remedies for the removal of the evils therein set forth.

Lord Salisbury, on the other hand, is gratified to learn the very favourable results which have attended the efforts of Dr. François on the two plantations on which he has been employed; and, as the Consul is convinced that the system adopted by this gentleman may well be followed on other estates, it is to be hoped that the proprietors will take advantage of his experience.

The Consul concludes his Report with a statement of the measures which should be taken before emigration from India to French Guiana is renewed for the third time. Lord Salisbury believes that the French Government is already aware of the requirements of the Government of India on this subject, and he trusts it is fully alive to their importance.

I am to add that a copy of Mr. Wooldridge's Report will be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

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* Inclosure in No. 28.

No. 30.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1877.

IN reply to your letter of the 12th instant, containing the Marquis of Salisbury's observations on Mr. Consul Wooldridge's Report for the first half of the current year, on emigration from India to French Guiana, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to observe that it is not stated in the letter under reply, whether Lord Salisbury would wish a representation in the sense of the observations contained in that letter to be made to the French Government, and I am accordingly to request that Lord Derby may be informed of Lord Salisbury's wishes on this point.

I am to add that Lord Derby thinks that it might be advisable to send a copy of your letter to Mr. Consul Wooldridge, and would propose to do so if the suggestion meets with Lord Salisbury's concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 31.

Sir L. Mallet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received January 17.)

My Lord, *India Office, January* 16, 1878.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Julian Pauncefote's letter of the 29th ultimo, relative to the Report of Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne on Indian immigrants in that colony for the first half of 1877; and, in reply, to state that the Marquis of Salisbury would be much obliged to the Earl of Derby if his Lordship will communicate the substance of my letter of the 12th ultimo to the French Government, and also furnish Mr. Consul Wooldridge with a copy of the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS MALLET.

No. 32.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to my note of the 16th October and previous correspondence respecting the question of the resumption of coolie immigration to French Guiana, I have now the honour to transmit to your Excellency a copy of the Report of Her Majesty's Consul at Cayenne on the mortality among Indian immigrants in that Colony during the first half of the year 1877.*

Her Majesty's Government have read with painful interest this Report, from which it appears that, notwithstanding the efforts of the Colonial Administration for the welfare of the coolies, the Colony still appears, on account of its climate, to be very fatal to the Indian population, and I am informed by the Secretary of State for India that until a diminution of this mortality can be obtained by the supply of a sufficient number of medical men, and by the provision of hospitals on every plantation and placer where a fixed number of immigrants is employed, the Government of India will be unable to permit the resumption of the immigration from that country.

With regard to this matter your Excellency will observe that Her Majesty's Consul states that Article 31 of the Immigration Act, to whose stipulations he draws attention, is a dead letter.

Your Excellency will also observe that Her Majesty's Consul draws attention to an article in the "Revue Scientifique," entitled "Les Coolies de la Guyanne," from which he gives quotations in translation, which gives a sad description of the condition and treatment of the immigrants, and Lord Salisbury trusts that the attention of the Commission of Inquiry referred to in your Excellency's note of the 25th May last, will have been drawn to this article by the French Government, and that the Commission will be able to suggest remedies for the evils therein set forth.

Lord Salisbury, on the other hand, has expressed his gratification at learning the

* Inclosure in No. 28.

very favourable results which have attended the efforts of Dr. François on the two plantations on which he has been employed; and, as Her Majesty's Consul is convinced that the system adopted by that gentleman may well be followed on other estates, his Lordship hopes that the proprietors will take advantage of his experience.

With regard to the concluding observations of Mr. Wooldridge's Report, in which he refers to the measures which should be taken before immigration from India to French Guiana is renewed, Lord Salisbury observes that the French Government is already aware of the requirements of the Government of India on this subject, and he trusts that they are fully alive to their importance,

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY,